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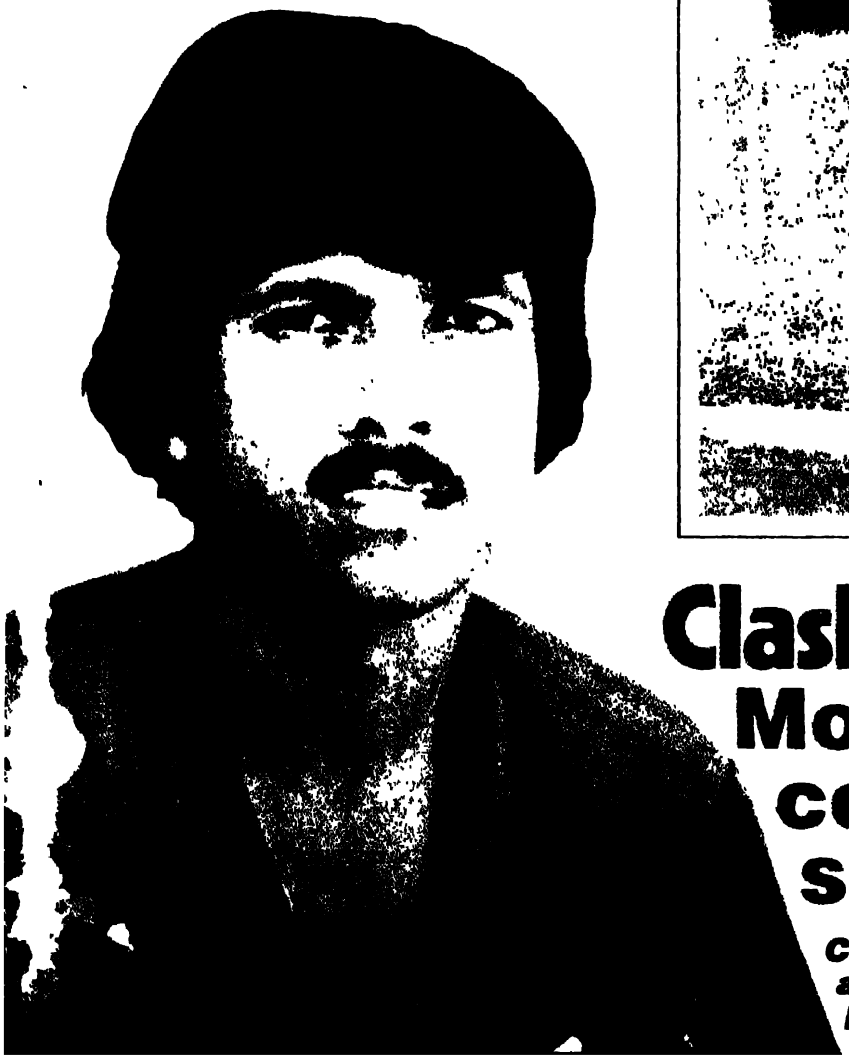
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Sportsworld

Australia guillotined

PATAUDI reports on the Headingley Test





Clash of the titans

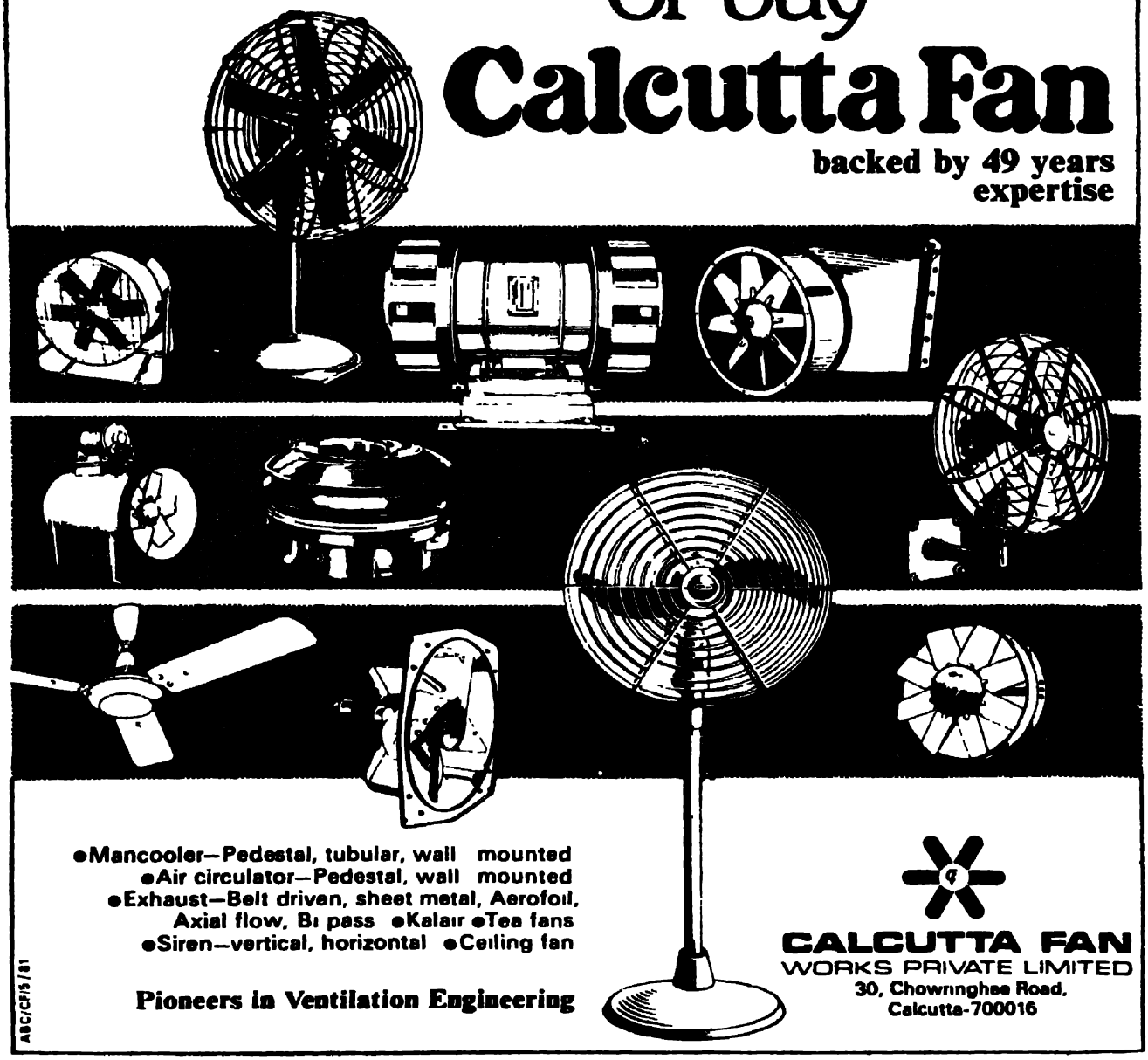
Mohun Bagan confirm superiority

Chuni Goswami and P. K. Banerje analyse the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal encounter

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Letters to the Editor

Borg vs McEnroe

At last John McEnroe of the United States has managed to put an end Borg's dictatorial reign of five consecutive years at the Wimbledon Both of them played entertaining tennis but, as McEnroe admitted later, the key to his success was his devastating first serve He really deserved to win not only the singles title but also the doubles title partnering Peter Fleming This was really a unique feat

But in spite of McEnroe's victory, I still rate Borg as the genius, as the true champion He possesses all the requisites of a real champion He is physically fitter and mentally superior to other players this is what McEnroe lacks To dominate the Wimbledon scene for five successive years and with such tremendous consistency is really unbelievable So after his defeat at Wimbledon this year, it would not be surprising if Borg wins the title in future

On the other hand, one cannot deny, of course, McEnroe's greatness though he is lacking in some departments that make one truly great His temperament is doubtful He behaved very unsportingly at Wimbledon this year, calling an umpire an incompetent fool and denouncing another as a disgrace to humanity Apart from this, he did not attend the traditional dinner If he is unable to control his temper, his promising career will be affected adversely I hope he will try to rectify his shortcomings and act like a real sportsman

BASHAB MIRI,
Gauhati

TAKING into due consideration Borg's achievements at Wimbledon over the past few years, many would welcome this year's exit of the icy cold, almost mechanical genius and the entry of a more lively and expressive champion in the kingdom of Wimbledon

I do not quite agree with the hullabaloo that has been raised over McEnroe's frequent remonstrances on court First, the umpire is not always correct in his judgement and is yet seldom seen reversing a patently unfair decision Now, how can a person, for whom every point counts, remain indifferent to this injustice? Secondly, this is the very style of his play, the source of his energy to play those scintillating shots Curbing it with any amount of typically British snobbery is not going to do the game any good Besides, why does McEnroe have most of his "behavioral problems" only at Wimbledon?

My feeling is that the world is going to see some great tennis from this young firebrand in the years to come The authorities should refrain from adopting any drastic measures that would impair his rhythm My advice, therefore, is, let a man play his natural game Where the game today involves so much rivalry, money and prestige, some amount of pent up energy is bound to find expression

ABHIJIT ROY,
New Delhi

Vijay's Wimbledon

HISTORY records champions but remembers sportsmen, and this explains why Vijay Amritraj will be remembered for a long time to come in the arena of tennis He has actually made us feel proud by behaving himself on the court Besides sobriety in manner and attitude, Vijay also possesses tremendous potential as a tennis player. Then, one wonders, what is it that makes him succumb so often to players whom he is capable of beating I personally feel that it is a combination of a lack of killer instinct and Indian complacency which is instrumental in his failures

'Killer Instinct' does not imply being unnecessarily aggressive, it means being able to pressurise the opponent with consistency, killing his game and making him lose his touch The third set of the Vijay-Connors match at Wimbledon this

year showed that, while Connors began to exert pressure on Vijay, the latter succumbed to his opponent It is hard to imagine McEnroe or Borg yielding to their adversaries at such a crucial stage of a match Vijay, in fact, does not have the temperament which is most essential to fight desperately till the end. As Fred Perry commented during the Vijay-Connors duel "When you've got your opponent down, you must not only sit on his back but also jump on his back This is the instinct which Vijay surely needs to topple the great players"

The second factor which often denies Vijay victory in important matches is the complacency typical of Indians One cannot conceive of the Americans rejoicing because their 'wonder boy' has reached the quarters or the semis But Indians can easily do that with great gusto! The Americans, the Swedes or the Australians will crave for nothing short of a title while we Indians are quite satisfied with having 'almost made it' This feeling has influenced not only Vijay but also Anand, Ashok and Shashi This is why they are not champions I firmly believe that Vijay will never make it to the top but I will continue to hope that he proves me wrong

SHOHINI GHOSH,
New Delhi.

Lamentable!

IT is a pity that every year the future of so many young talented footballers are nipped in the bud because of the business mentality of the Big Three clubs of Calcutta By engaging the star footballers of India the big clubs deny promising youngsters the chance of displaying their skill Mohun Bagan, for example, have not so far tried their junior India defenders Even talented footballers like Gautam Bhattacharya and Biswajit Bhattacharya have not been given adequate opportunities

East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting also do not lag behind Mohun Bagan in their efforts to lure away the best footballers of the country East Bengal have, in fact, in their original line-up, only a couple of players who originally belong to Bengal It would have been better had the big clubs paid greater attention to promising youngsters instead of pampering players of other provinces who have come to Bengal for the lure of money The future of many young players of the big clubs appears to be bleak as they do not get ample chances to prove themselves. The most recent case is that of striker Amit Bagchi who could not find favour with the Mohammedan Sporting officials The state of affairs is such that Bengal, being the cradle of Indian football, has not produced even a single striker of real calibre after the days of Subhash Bhowmick and Sukalyan Ghosh Dastidar This is highly lamentable

A K PREMCHAND,
Calicut

Come on, Brearley!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Brearley for leading England to a thrilling victory against Australia in the third Test It was expected that Ian Botham would step down from the captaincy following his disappointing show After becoming captain he lost his magic touch in both batting and bowling and England were defeated under his captaincy in two consecutive Test series against the Windies Botham also lost the first Test against Australia which did not include such stalwarts as Greg Chappell, Doug Walters, Len Pascoe and Jeff Thomson On the other hand, Botham was the captain of a side, which consisted of more experienced players like Willis, Gooch, Boycott, Taylor and Woolmer But it is a pity that he was not able to exploit what came as a gift to him So, come on Brearley, prove once again that you are the best captain in the world today!

PRABAL GUHA,
Baljan North

English Cricket

BOYCOTT was indeed unlucky not to get a hundred in his centenary Test This great man at 42 is still serving the English cause well He is still a tremendous force to reckon with

Botham's resignation from the post of captaincy has followed with the old English ploy of recalling veterans This time it is a man whose batting average in Test cricket hovers around 25. Mike Brearley may be an astute leader, but Bedser and Co will surely be faced with another batting misfit

It is indeed ironical that a man, who has played a hundred Tests for his country, has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the national side only once Bedser could not have got a better man than the experienced Boycott to pull England out of trouble With Brearley coming back, Emburey, in all probability, will be out of the eleven This will impair England's attack, which is already poor This surely is a retrograde step taken by the English selectors

P S MONY,
Trivandrum

Tougher?

THIS is with reference to Mr Jaimin M Bhatt's letter in your July 8 issue Though Mr Bhatt has found fault with Mr Sethuraman, he has himself committed a few monumental blunders

Mr Bhatt points that competition was tougher in the Sixties than it is at present due to the presence of a galaxy of stalwarts like Laver Rosewall, Roche, Newcombe and Emerson An absurd notion! First, though Rosewall became a professional in 1957, he did not play the Grand Slam events till 1968 when tennis became 'open' Laver turned professional in 1962 After him Emerson made his entry into the professional world Newcombe and Roche entered the tennis world in 1967 So competition was never really as fierce as it is today

Mr Bhatt states that the Grand Prix Tournaments are played on Deco Turf II, while the Masters Tournaments are played on Supreme and a synthetic surface (this surface was used at the Calcutta Grand Prix) Mr Bhatt should verify what he writes before he corrects other people

RAHUL JACOB,
Calcutta



The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Rome: The Rev Dr Herry Smythe (57) who's been the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal representative in Rome returns to Canterbury—walking all the way! His idea is to focus attention on Church unity for which he is striving The Pope, said Smythe, would have liked to have joined him but was restrained by the thought of the millions who'd do so too "I won't be dry and dusty" he added, "there are very good pubs along the way I just hope that finally I'll be in condition to walk through the door of the cathedral!"

UPS AND DOWNS OF STUNTMEN

Chicago: Professional stuntman Daniel Goodwin (25) garbed like Spiderman climbed the 1,454 ft west face of the Sear's Tower in just 7½ hrs With 40 m p h winds whipping around him, and 50 lbs of climbing equipment on his back, the nimble hero's victorious arrival on top of the 110 storey building was nevertheless a bit of a come down He was arrested for "disorderly conduct" and released on $35 bail

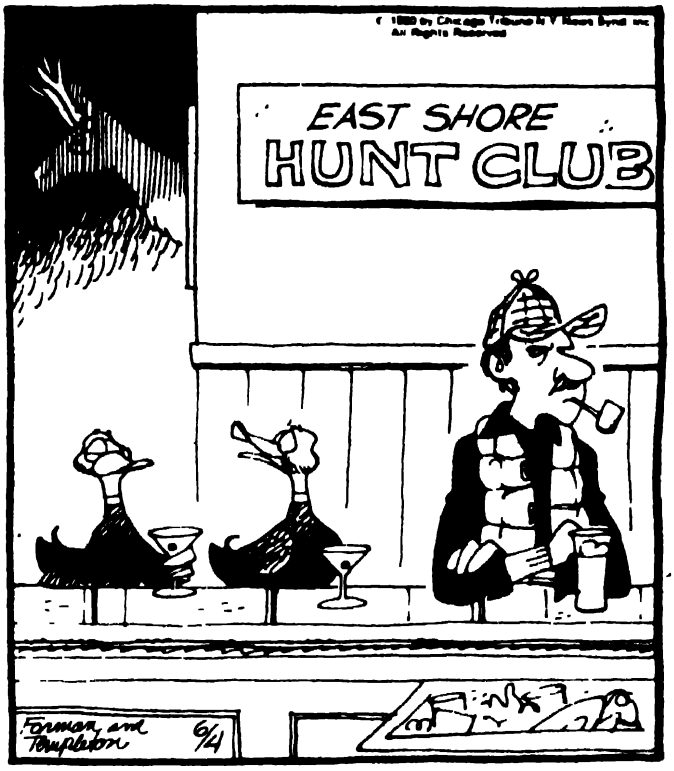
THE KING AND HIS COURT

Bhutan: Jigme Singye Wangchuk king of this tiny Himalayan kingdom is a basketball freak. The 25-year-old monarch hones his skills by watching video tapes of NBA games sent with basket balls and sneakers by the Bhutanese Mission to the UN 5 9 ft tall Jigme is his country s best player—not surprisingly His presence on court intimidates opposing team members and referees are reluctant to call foul He also uses the sleeves of his Kho (traditional garment) in play Just royal zest!

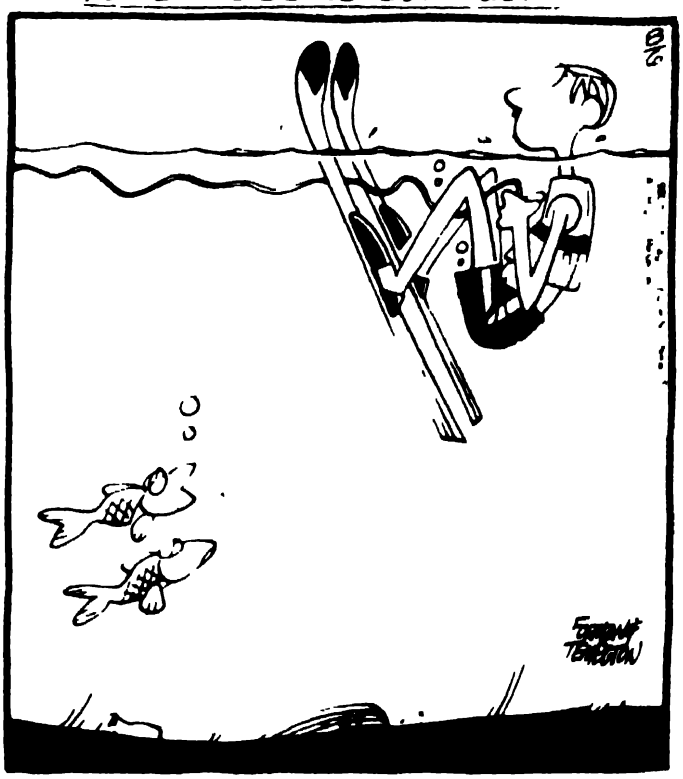
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"I KNOW THE HUNTING SEASON IS OVER, BUT I STILL THINK WE'RE PRESSING OUR LUCK!"



"I THINK WE SHOULD TELL HIM IT NEVER SNOWS HERE?"

Dilip Doshi finds his form— at long last

ASHIS RAY reports from London

FIRST, a bit of updating Somerset defeated Kent and Surrey got the better of Leicestershire to earn the right to contest the Benson and Hedges Cup final, which will have been held at Lord's on July 25.

Subsequent events have included the staging of the Natwest Trophy, the successor to the Gillette Cup In the John Player League, where Sussex have held sway for long, they have since, if you recall, lost a bit of ground to Derbyshire At the time of writing, the situation remains unaltered as Derby, with 22 points from seven games, can be deemed as better placed than their rivals, who have acquired 24 points from nine outings (Remember, it's four points for a win, two for a tie or a no result)

In fact, Sussex went down to Somerset in a crucial clash at Taunton In this tie, the "Big Bird" Joel Garner produced figures of four wickets for 23 to rout the opposition for 154 after which Somerset secured the required runs for the loss of six wickets The performance of the day, however, emanated from Clive Lloyd, captain of Lancashire, who churned out one of the best innings ever seen in the twelve years of the Sunday League when he hit an unbeaten 105 against Middlesex to steer his side to victory off the last delivery Lancashire needed two to win off that last ball, but stylishly enough, the ageless West Indian struck a four, which brought full-throated gratitude from a crowd of six thousand at Old Trafford

The Schweppes Championship is throwing up dramatic ups and downs Not so long ago, Hampshire were at the bottom of the table, but after a spectacular run of successes, they now occupy the helm, and are the ones to catch, as far as the the rest of the field are concerned Their latest joy was an innings win over Derbyshire—no mean opponents if one inspects the John Player League results Here, after Gordon Greenidge obtained 109, Keith Stevenson took seven for 103 to ensure triumph

Sussex and Surrey, who were involved in a draw in the corresponding period, as well as Nottinghamshire, Essex, Somerset and Middlesex, all remain in hot pursuit, and the championship, after all, is the most coveted prize But the inspiration Hampshire seem to have derived from their recent form cannot be ignored. They are not unassailable, but getting past them is going to take some doing. And more the thrill, if that occurs.

In all the encounters in the Natwest Trophy, except the one between Yorkshire and Kent (won by the latter) it was a matter of sorting out the "men" from the "boys" As is the custom in this tournament, non-first class units are given a bash at the more reputed lot, and this was stage one of the enterprise No surprises erupted, as is

Gordon Greenidge Yet another superb century



PATRICK EAGAR

Player of the week

Garth Le Roux



I AM beginning to believe that the honour of nominating the player of the week is nothing but a trap In some weeks, the choice is quite straightforward and not exposed to any criticism But at other times, the selection is downright difficult and rather open to debate This is one such week

Clive Rice, Dennis Amiss, Paul Parker, Gordon Greenidge and Geoffrey Humpage have all been enjoying a productive season with the bat, and in the week concerned, recorded hundreds in brilliant fashion The last mentioned, in fact, is third in the batting averages at the time of writing and has the highest average among the Englishmen. Another man who did not get a century this week, but was consistent enough, was Younis Ahmed in hitting 36, 83 not out, 46 not out and 81. This gave him second place in the averages, behind Zaheer Abbas

Yet, there was another display, which I feel should be recognised, an all-round performance by Garth Le Roux of Sussex This Cape Town-born cricketer, as many people will know, is a fast bowler, and he took eight for 107 in one innings against Somerset, following this up with a robust innings of 65, which, put together, helped considerably towards his side snatching victory. Ultimately, of course, it was Parker's unconquered 105 that took the team to victory, but the foundation, quite honestly, had been laid by the South African.

Recruited by Sussex in 1979, Le Roux made his first big splash in World Series Cricket. He isn't excessively quick, but finds the firm wicket at Hove very much to his liking, and the eight wickets was a career-best feat. His previous record was seven for 40 versus Eastern Province, playing for Western Province in the Currie Cup. Just about enough, in other words, to convince me that this was the showing of the week and he the player of the seven-day phase



Another one that got away Doshi looks aghast as a catch off his bowling is dropped

also quite conventional, with Hampshire, Essex, Gloucestershire (who played Ireland), Lancashire, Glamorgan and Derbyshire duly moving up to the second round

Perhaps not very exciting, that, but rest assured that this trait will be evident in wholesome measure with the progress of the competition for the unpredictability, and therefore the thrill, sets in once the seasoned hands come face to face

Incidentally, Dilip Doshi, at last, got among the wickets by capturing four for 90 against Leicestershire Warwickshire lost this game by an innings, but the left-arm spinner should emerge out of it with added confidence It's been a difficult season for the Indian and unless he recaptures his old incisiveness, there is a real danger of his losing the contract next season

Kapil Dev, too, has not exactly covered himself with glory in the couple of matches he played for Northamptonshire Moreover, at present, with Sarfraz Nawaz re-entering the scene with a bag of four for 54 against Essex, the Haryana fast bowler is unlikely to be called up for duty from here onwards His only chance of inclusion, in fact, rests on injuries to either Sarfraz or Allan Lamb, the South African, since no County, under current regulations, can enjoy the services of more than two overseas players in a game But, of course, Kapil Dev will be kept busy over weekends in the Lancashire League

The tourists' aspect was stimulating only from an individual standpoint Northamptonshire were hosts to Australia, and in this meeting, Rodney Hogg carved out a fiery spell to take six for 87, which emphatically silenced all speculation about his return home He had been left out of the eleven at Lord's after a recurrence of a back problem However, he has obviously recovered quite rapidly, and so the talk about Greg Chappell replacing him is now not even a whisper In the same match, the studiously bespectacled Dirk Wellham notched up a superb 135 not out to remind his bosses that he is equipped to fill a vacancy, if there is one in future

Finally, Sri Lanka in their fixture at Leicester, once again proved that they are a pretty useful batting side, irrespective of the conditions Roy Dias' 127 in the match, and the undefeated 95 by Wettimuny, were skilful efforts They could soon be utilising this talent in official Tests

DAVIS CUP

King Arthur's knights go unCzeched

The United States, drawing on its richest resources, lost only one match against defending champions Czechoslovakia on their way to the semi-final. The man who engineered the victory, points out GEORGE K. GEORGE, was former Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe, the US captain.



Vitas Gerulaitis The US captain had such a wealth of talent to choose from that Gerulaitis was ignored for this tie

THE applause was deafening The players of the home squad were up for introduction prior to their battle against the Czechs There were John McEnroe, who had only recently dethroned Borg, Jimmy Connors, one of the most aggressive players in the game today, along with Stan Smith and Bob Lutz, the oldest doubles pair on the circuit and arguably the second best

An impressive lineup, then Three Wimbledon champions among them McEnroe, the current holder, Connors, the winner in 1974 and Smith, the 1972 champion But the thunderous applause was directed, in the main, at a man who was not to wield a racket for his country in the tie Arthur Ashe, the 1975 Wimbledon champion, was the recepient of a round of clapping and cheering that lasted several minutes People in the crowd waved scores of placards reading "Happy birthday Arthur We love you"

He deserved it all Undeterred by a heart attack that forced him onto the



Arthur Ashe

sidelines of professional tennis, he refused to move away from the game To him, even at the height of his fame, the Davis Cup was the ultimate in tennis He would have sacrificed anything to play Davis Cup tennis for the United States and to be appointed captain of his country's team for this, "The Grand Old Crock of Tradition was the greatest honour possible

This tournament meant everything for Ashe It was not just because he was making his debut as a Davis Cup captain It was not just because the tie was being played in his home town It was not just because he had welded together a dream team It was a combination of all these factors put together Suffice it to say that he get McEnroe and Connors—who have never seen eye to eye—to play alongside each other in a tie that assumed the utmost importance

King Arthur went for the kill, in style The 4 1 result in favour of his team was as much a tribute to the skill of his players as it was to their captain

a former superstar in his own right Ironically, though, the only match that went to Czechoslovakia was lost by John McEnroe, sporting a brand new hairstyle and a new code of behaviour.

No one had expected the United States to lose this play-off But, had the worst happened, Arthur Ashe would have been the only loser In recent years, the US, in spite of having most of the world's top players, has lost Davis Cup matches simply because of the non-availability and lack of interest of top players But the moment Ashe influenced Jimmy Connors to join the team after a lapse of seven years, the pressure was on him. He had the world's No 1 and 3 for the singles He could have either of the world's top two doubles teams (McEnroe and Peter Fleming or Bob Lutz and Stan Smith) as well To lose with that kind of a lineup would have been too much

Ashe knew he had two time-bombs in the shape of McEnroe and Connors, the perpetual rivals of pro tennis He was also aware that he had no excuse for losing Still, he went about it his way He decided even before Wimbledon that he would play McEnroe only in the singles He picked Gene Meyer and his brother Sandy to play the doubles but the former's recent injury ruined that plan Instead, he decided to play Lutz and Smith, who would eventually lose to McEnroe and Fleming at Wimbledon

As Ashe had expected, Wimbledon had taken its toll on John McEnroe It was indeed a great win for McEnroe He defied the tournament organisers and the officials of the All England Club to the last minute But once home, he received the news that he was denied the privilege of honorary membership of the All-England Club Although he heard of it on the eve of the opening match, he was silent about it But suddenly, the effect of the long physical and psychological battles of the past two weeks surfaced He lost the match to Ivan Lendl 4-6, 12-14, 5-7

John McEnroe was not in his element in this match "It is very difficult for John to adjust", Lendl said after the match "He reached the finals at Wimbledon playing on grass in the cold I lost in the first round and spent the last 10 days playing on cement in Florida where the weather was hotter and more humid"

It was more than the weather and sheer fatigue John McEnroe was psychologically worn out However, he entered a gentleman's agreement with Ashe to the effect that he would not misbehave or argue If a call looked doubtful, he would wait for a few seconds, look at Ashe or draw a circle around the spot where he thought the ball landed, or put the ball on the spot silently McEnroe admitted that it was the "mental thing", the hangover of Wimbledon

He even went a step further At 12-12 in the second set, a crucial call went against Lendl, but the Czech

McEnroe looked relieved. In the post-match interview he said, "I'm going to sound stupid saying this, but his backhand was definitely in and I was kind of glad he won the game anyway I don't like people getting the shaft that way".

He would be no different in his attitude in the reverse singles on July 12. He beat Tomas Smid 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 with a much improved game. The impeccable behaviour continued When bad calls were made against him, he would scratch his close-cropped hair (no curls, no headband) and stare helplessly at Ashe, whose middle name is 'cool' In the third set when he led 4-2, only two sets away from his team's victory, he protested a call against Smid's first serve by letting the second serve fly past him in a gesture of unparalleled sportsmanship The crowd cheered him wildly and he acknowledged it by raising both arms above his head, as he had done in the Wimbledon final It was such a paradox to see the crowd protesting bad calls against McEnroe



Jimmy Connors gave his all for his country It was great to walk out there and be cheered by the people in



After the victory Peter Rennert pours a glass of beer over McEnroe's head Note the new hairstyle

while the so-called superbrat stayed calm and resigned

McEnroe's win assured the US of the semi-finals against Australia at Portland The US had already taken a 2-1 lead with the help of Jimmy Connors and the Lutz/Smith combination, who beat Lendl and Smid in straight sets "I wanted to do it", McEnroe said adding, "I wanted to contribute a little and I didn't want to lose twice Now I'm not going to pick up a racket for a couple of weeks I am glad that it is over with and we won I want to try and see if people can forget who I am, so that I can be left alone like everyone else"

The 3-1 US lead did not ruin the second reverse singles which, in fact, was the best match of the entire play-off Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl went at each other's throats as if the outcome of the series depended on the match

There was a pre-match controversy Before the McEnroe-Smid match, the Czech manager Antonin Bolardt had requested Ashe to reduce the final match to a three setter if the US obtained a 3-1 lead Ashe agreed and Connors was notified. But the Czech coach did not inform Lendl about the change of plans He came out to play and when informed of the change, started an argument, insisting on playing the best of five

A few months ago, Lendl had walked off the court protesting line calls in a Davis Cup match against Switzerland, after Czechoslovakia took a winning lead His idea was to wear Connors out and beat him for the first time in this their eighth encounter Moreover he has little love for jumbo-jet Jimbo who was called 'chicken' for allegedly giving up a match during the Volvo Grand Prix Masters in January The Czech coach convinced him to play and he did

It was a delightful display by Jimmy Connors He had already registered a splendid 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win over Smid to level the score for the US, after McEnroe had lost "It was great to walk out there and be cheered by the people in New York City for a change", he remarked after the first match "Knowing John had lost made me more eager, more keyed up for the match"

He didn't have to prove anything in the match against Lendl, but Connors is a player to whom the outcome of every match matters He gives each encounter his best shot Though Lendl broke him twice in the first set, he bounced back and played a sound serve and volley game to win 7-5, 6-4

Some people say that Jimmy Connors decided to return to the Davis Cup squad because there is $ 200,000 prize money for the winning team But one has to give a little credit to this man A few thousand Davis Cup dollars don't matter much for a millionaire like him He could make more money by keeping his present schedule which had to be rearranged for the Davis Cup He had kept out of the Davis Cup team initially mainly because of his disagreement with former captain Tony Trabert He agreed to play only because Arthur Ashe asked him to

"John McEnroe, Stan Smith, Bob Lutz and I know how to play tennis", Connors said adding, "But Arthur picks up little things from courtside that could make all the difference in the match And he knows how to discuss it with you"

Ashe's approach and his own Davis Cup experience have changed Connors' mind on the subject of the remaining Davis Cup matches 'As long as they keep asking me I'll play", he says He has already agreed to rearrange his schedule for the semi-finals against Australia

Salute Arthur Ashe for this He has made one happy family out of two black sheep!

Tennis diary

This week, we begin a new column for tennis fans, which will appear every month. The column will record the results—and upsets—of the major tournaments of the Volvo Grand Prix circuit, as well as the latest points standing at the end of the period in question

ON the Volvo Grand Prix circuit, variety is the spice of life. After 41 of the 90 scheduled tournaments, 25 different players have won singles titles. Jimmy Connors is the current points leader in the race for the $ 300 000 bonus pool first prize with Ivan Lendl hot on his heels in second place.

When John McEnroe won the Queen's Club Stella Artois grass court championships in London prior to Wimbledon he kept the trophy since it was the third straight year he had won the tournament.

McEnroe will long remember this year's Wimbledon – both for his dramatic streak stopping victory over Bjorn Borg in the final and also for his run ins with the All-England Club. The Men's International Professional Tennis Council is considering Wimbledon's recommendation that McEnroe be fined $10 000 for aggravated behaviour under the major offence category of the Volvo Grand Prix Players' Code of Conduct.

Ivan Lendl recently purchased a home at Boca West, Florida to use as his US base of operations. He practised there for ten days prior to upsetting McEnroe in the Davis Cup.

At this stage last year seven of the eight players who would eventually qualify for the Volvo Masters had taken their places in the top eight. The final qualifier Jose-Luis Clerc was in 25th place. Should the same pattern hold true this year, seven of the following eight players will make the Volvo Masters—Connors, Ivan Lendl, McEnroe, Roscoe Tanner, Bjorn Borg, Yannick Noah, Guillermo Vilas and Victor Pecci.

Major upsets since June 8

Stella Artois Championships, London: *Scott McCain over Raúl Ramírez (first round), Eddie Edwards over Paul McNamee (first round) and Kevin Curren over Roscoe Tanner (third round).*

Belgian Open, Brussels. *Diego Perez over Carlos Kirmayr (second round) and Steve Krulevitz over Adriano Panatta (quarters).*

Volvo Grand Prix standings after 41 tournaments

Singles Name	Tournaments played	Volvo points
1 J Connors	8	1190
2 I Lendl	8	1016
3 J McEnroe	7	995
4. R Tanner	11	769
5 B Borg	5	734
6 Y M Noah	10	667
7 G Vilas	9	640
8 V Pecci	10	637
9 W Fibak	11	591
10 G Mayer	6	559
23 Vijay Amritraj	11	262

Doubles teams	
1 Fleming/McEnroe	154
2 Gunthardt/Taroczy	131
3 Curren/Denton	130
4 Moor/Teltscher	112
5 Gottfried/Ramirez	111



Adriano Panatta

Lambert and Butler Championships, Bristol *Mark Edmondson over Roscoe Tanner (final).*

Wimbledon *Eric Fromm over Yannick Noah (first round) Charlie Fancutt over Ivan Lendl (first round) Mark Edmondson over Guillermo Vilas (first round) Carlos Kirmayr over Roscoe Tanner (second round) Vijay Amritraj over Brian Teacher (second round), Geoff Brown over Brian Gottfried (second round) and Tim Gullikson (third round), Tim Mayotte over John Sadri (third round) Ivan Sandy Mayer (fourth round) and Paul Kronk over Jose Luis Clerc (third round).*

Miller Hall of Fame, New Port *Anand Amritraj over Brian Teacher (first round) Jim Delaney over Victor Amaya (second round) and Erik Van Dillen over Tim Wilkinson (quarters).*

Swiss Open, Gstaad *Heinz Gunthardt over Victor Pecci (quarters).*

HARESH MUNWANI

Focus

Does McEnroe deserve what he is getting?

DAVID McMAHON examines the question

THE Heroes' Room at Madame Tussaud's is reserved only for those who have become legends in their lifetime In this, the Holy of Holies, Elton John and Elvis Presley rub shoulders with Telly Savalas, Muhammad Ali and Bjorn Borg Outside, "lesser mortals" like Queen Elizabeth, Gandhiji, Montgomery, Churchill, Pele and Boycott must be content with slightly less prestigious status The Heroes' Room, then, is the ultimate privilege

This year, a new waxwork was shifted to this enclosure· that of John Patrick McEnroe. He stands alongside Bjorn Borg near a Wimbledon umpire's chair, under a scoreboard which lights up to synchronise with a tape recording of the Centre Court crowd cheering, the umpire calling the score and Borg's voice When McEnroe was "presented" to his wax clone, so to speak, he seemed troubled by something Was there anything the matter? he was asked

"Yeah," he answered "This guy's not the real McEnroe He's far too quiet" It is doubtful, however, whether the authorities at Madame Tussaud's will consider including a tape recording of McEnroe cussing out an umpire just for the sake of reality

That the wax McEnroe is too quiet will be testified to by thousands of tennis fans the world over So too by several umpires and linesmen who have suffered at the American's hands So too by scores of unfortunate opponents who have been tongue-lashed in similar fashion. Does McEnroe have what is commonly referred to as a persecution complex? It would be extremely difficult to answer that, one way or another

Let us begin by listing his plus points Admittedly, that may prove rather difficult, but then even John Wilkes Booth must have had something appealing about him First and foremost, McEnroe has never used obscene language on a tennis court There are plenty of players on the highly competitive professional circuit who think nothing of resorting to language that would not find its way into gutter dictionaries



The real McEnroe is the one at left The waxwork is the one on the right

Example US player Fritz Buehning He piled up an impressive list of fines at the All-England Club this year, first because he employed a rather earthy gesture and second because he used language that would have made a sailor blush. Buehning is renowned as an umpire-baiter and there have been several occasions when he has questioned a well-intentioned linesman's parentage.

That gives us two plus points to McEnroe He does not use obscene language He does not resort to obscene gestures

Point number three in favour of McEnroe is that he has proved he can keep that famous—or should we say infamous—temper under check After his outbursts of the early rounds, he was at his stoic best in the final against Borg There were several line calls that could have gone either way, but while one has got used to seeing Borg take these things in his stride, it was something novel to see McEnroe play on without so much as a murmur Every time he did so he was applauded warmly by the capacity crowd as though he had won a point

Only once in that historic final did McEnroe lose his cool. After he had served a fault, someone in the crowd shouted out something and he served a double fault, after which he turned and called "Thank you very much" in the general direction of the offender Even as McEnroe struggled to keep his temper in check, he seemed to be playing brilliant tennis, which probably makes a mockery of his oft-repeated claim that he needs to blow his top in order to play better tennis

McENROE's problems began in the first round, when, infuriated by a line call, he argued with umpire Edward James, snapped a racket under foot and then kicked it off the court James warned him over the public address system, saying "Mr McEnroe, you are abusing your racket" If this warning made any impression on the tempestuous second seed, it certainly was not apparent

In the third set, he screamed "You are the pits of the world" when a line call went against him and the umpire responded by fining him a penalty point McEnroe, astounded, asked that tournament referee Fred Hoyles be summoned to the courtside, for this step literally meant that he was one-third of the way out of the tournament The first step in the three-stage code introduced this year to curb player indiscipline was a penalty point awarded against the offender, the second was a penalty game, while the ultimate step was disqualification from the tournament itself

McEnroe earned the dubious distinction of becoming the first person this year to be awarded a penalty point, but there was even more drama in store for him When Hoyles confirmed the penalty, McEnroe ranted "I refuse to be penalised by an incompetent fool" What happened next is now history Hoyles slapped another penalty point on him and the next day it was announced that McEnroe had been fined a sum of $ 1500 for bad behaviour

By the end of the first day, McEnroe was clearly in disgrace once again, as evident by the fact that he was often slow-handclapped and booed by sections of the crowd on Court Number One A joke started doing the rounds at the All-England Club that umpire James—a dentist by profession—was waiting to take his revenge if ever

McEnroe made an appointment with him

McENROE is without doubt the worst behaved champion in the glorious history of the All-England Championships, but let it not be forgotten that to some extent, he was baited Lest I be accused of defending McEnroe, let me stress that I hold no brief for him at all To a great extent, the fault was his own but he was goaded in no uncertain terms

There was enough pressure on him to start with His temperament had drawn a great deal of comment—most of it unflattering—in the British Press, just as the outbursts of Connors had not so long ago The hero of 1977, the young man who came through three qualifying rounds to lose to Connors in the semi-final, was the arch villain of 1980 and 1981 McEnroe's on-court feats and his off-court brushes with authority took pride of place in the tabloids and the evening papers, eager to jack up circulation with sensational reports straight from Wimbledon, some of them slanted to malign, others blown entirely out of proportion It was only the staid newspapers that kept their reportage factual and without bias

THE Press enraged McEnroe At the Press conference after his game with Rod Frawley a disappointing semi final if ever there was one—McEnroe was tense enough when he entered His earlier Press conferences had been cosy sessions and he had spoken frankly, honestly and often humorously as well But this was different The Press had already played up the angle of a thaw in relations between McEnroe and his erstwhile girl friend Stacy Margolin, a pro tennis player herself who participated at Wimbledon McEnroe was understandably upset about this

One of the reporters began by asking him "Have you and Stacy split?"

McEnroe scratched his head, said "No" in a calm voice and then said in the same tone "But that's none of your business I'm here to answer questions on tennis and nothing else I didn't choose to come here You people asked to see me" (This was true Under the Press rules at Wimbledon, a player will attend a Press conference only if at least seven journalists have requested an audience with him)

There was a short pause and then McEnroe added "I'll answer any questions on tennis Nothing else"

The next question came from a lady reporter from one of the British tabloids "Just one question on a subject unrelated to tennis, John, will you answer it?"

"No," came the answer, but McEnroe was still smiling

The lady reporter persisted "I'm here to cover Lady Diana's visit and I want to know what you think of her"

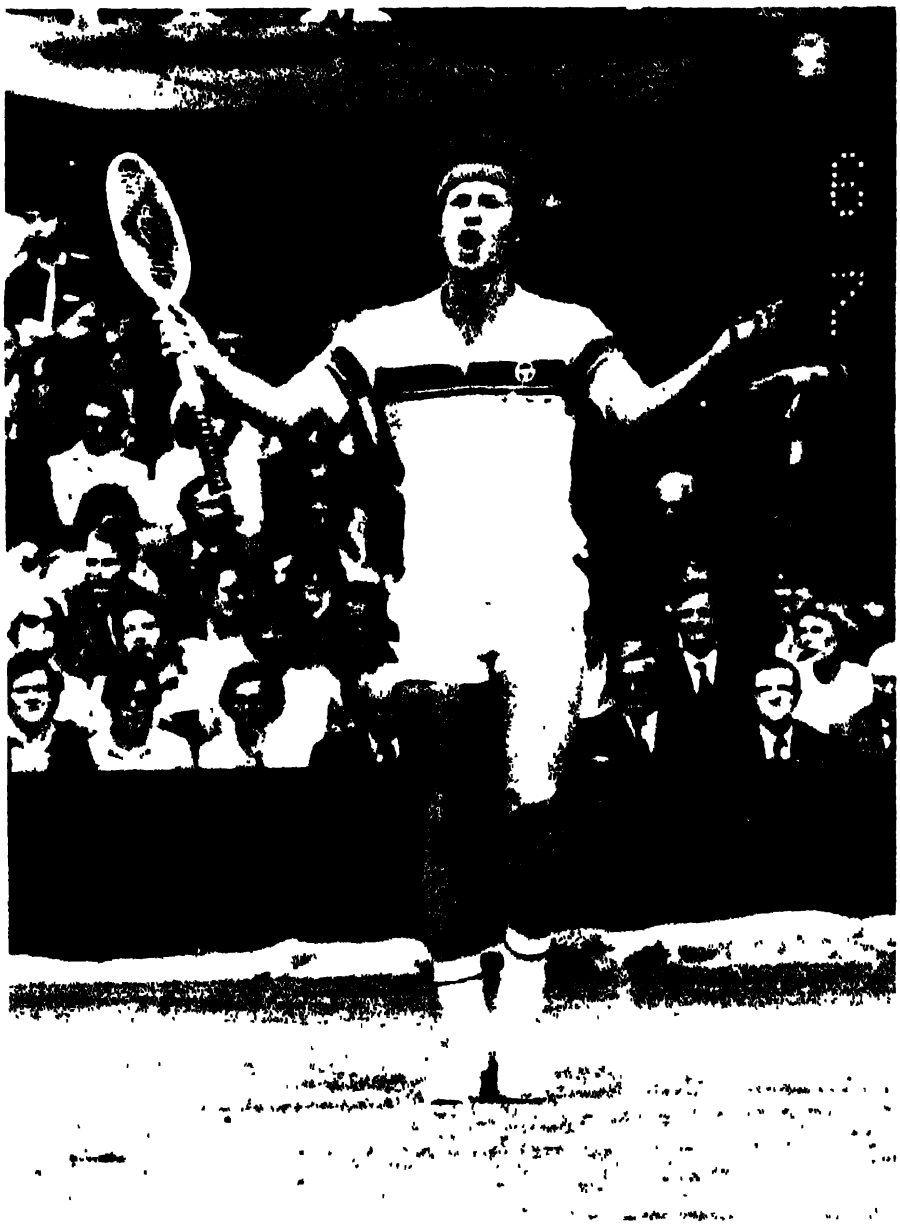
McEnroe waited for her to finish and though he had warned that he would not speak, he said "I think she's a fantastic person"

And then he blew up He launched himself on a lecture—not entirely without basis—that the tennis Press wrote a lot of rubbish What he actually said was unprintable but as if that was not enough, yet another British reporter baited him even further McEnroe had used two adjectives and the reporter facetiously asked which adjective he should reproduce in his paper

"Both" replied McEnroe as he stormed out of the room

That, then, was the story of what has been described as one of the most unpleasant Press conferences ever to take place at Wimbledon Let the reader judge for himself whether McEnroe was at fault or not

On court, there was no excuse for his behaviour, for the champion conducted himself like a lout The All-England Club was justified in its rigid stand against him If they had given in to him, how many more junior players would have emulated McEnroe, encouraged by the fact that he was being allowed to get away scot free?



McEnroe arguing with umpire Grimes on Centre Court

The question of the traditional Wimbledon ball raised several eyebrows, but let me explain what really happened McEnroe was invited for the function but when he asked for eight passes, he was told he would only get five When he informed the organisers that he would only be able to arrive at eleven, they asked if he could try and make an entry half an hour earlier since he would have to give a speech

What happened thereafter is difficult to say The organisers claim that McEnroe stormed out without an explanation McEnroe's father said that he was frostily informed that there was no need for his son to attend

So John Patrick McEnroe became the first Wimbledon champion to spend the evening in a pizza joint with a few close friends

ASIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Inept preparation

AT the 10th Asian Schools International Football Tournament, recently held at Jakarta, India attained the distinction of being the only team in the entire competition, unable to score a single goal The result was even more deplorable as India was placed in a group made comparatively easy by the last minute withdrawl of Japan So in their preliminary league matches in Group A, India were routed 0-3 by hosts Indonesia and were upset 0-1, by newcomers Brunei Thus India finished last in their group and made a dismal exit from the tournament

Keeping these results in view the intriguing question is that were India outclassed by superior opposition or has the standard of adolescent soccer in the country deteriorated so significantly in the last few years? It must be recollected here that when the similar tournament was staged at Agra three years ago India, with several Adivasi players (nowadays assisting Bokaro Steel Plant), made a considerable impact with a determined and talented display Eye witness accounts at Jakarta, however, indicate that India's debacle was not so much due to superior or deteriorating standards but primarily a result of inept preparation

India's opening match was against hosts Indonesia and was also the inaugural tie of the tournament The venue of this encounter was the 100,000 capacity Senayan Stadium which was nearly half full The Indian schoolboys were overawed by the occasion and in the first half could not click as a team Passes went awry and players were slow in trapping and turning with the ball This was not really surprising as the Indian team had been hastily assembled without much competitive match practice Anadi Barua, left half of the Indian Schools team and the only Delhi player in the squad aptly summed up the predicament the players found themselves in

"At Jakarta we were made to play with five defenders, with one defender acting as sweeper behind the other four, two linkmen and three forwards As all Indian players are accustomed to play in the 4 2 4 formation we could not adjust to this new system because we could not fully comprehend it At the Srinagar camp of barely 1 month's duration, nearly 20 days were spent in elimination and selection of the probables so coach Birumal (from NIS Patiala) had very little time to properly explain the intricacies of the new formation All our opponents seemed better trained and better prepared than us and compared to teams like Thailand and Indonesia (winners and runners up respectively) we seemed like sub-juniors especially in terms of speed and stamina"

Watching the Indian Schools football team play at Jakarta, National referee, R M Gautam (who supervised matches in the 1980 Calcutta Federation Cup) also endorsed the opinion that insufficient preparation was the cause of India's debacle Gautam, a Delhi based referee, especially invited to supervise matches at the Jakarta tournament, said that knowledgeable observers were of the view that in terms of skill India were equal to the best in Asia However, talking to *Sportsworld,* Gautam made several observations which revealed India's inept preparations

"In the opening tie against the hosts, sweeper-back Mohammed Latif (Jammu and Kasmir) took all the goal-kicks As Indonesia launched numerous raids on the Indian goal the frequency of goal-kicks increased. Latif started tiring, his kicks went astray and often went straight to the opponents enabling them to launch an immediate counter-attack Even in such a situation all the other defenders shied away from taking goal-kicks, so that India's display became even more disjointed Again in the next encounter against Brunei the forwards missed over half-a-dozen sitters because of poor anticipation and positioning Zorawar Singh (Punjab), the right winger, always seemed to move at the wrong time and missed two of the easiest chances with only the goal-keeper to beat Also the bench-strength of the team seemed inadequate Against Indonesia Anadi Barua (Delhi) had to play the entire match even when he had difficulty in breathing owing to a stomach injury sustained during the course of the match, as there was no other left half in the squad"

An analysis of the composition of the Indian Schools team reveals that it does not seem a really representative national team No players from Goa (Junior National Champions) and soccer conscious States like Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka even attended the Srinagar training camp Again teams from the N E Hill States, particularly school teams from Manipur Assam and Nagaland have been dominating the Subroto Mukherjee Cup during the last few years, and Assam have also been National sub junior champion and National School Games Champions in the recent past However from this entire region only one player Mohammed Imdad Khan (a defender from Assam) was selected for the Indian team, even though a large contingent, particularly from Manipur attended the selection trials The 16 members of the Indian team consisted of five players from Hyderabad, three from Punjab two each from Jammu and Kashmir West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Assam and Delhi. It is alleged that the two representatives from Jammu and Kashmir are both permanent employees of RTC Srinagar and have not played in the school games in the recent past They were included to fulfil the quota of the host State (for the training-cum-selection camp) Such haphazard selection mars India's prestige abroad and is detrimental to the development of football at home

Food at the Srinagar training camp was inadequate both in terms of preparation and nutritive value The boys daily underwent two gruelling sessions both in the morning and evening and should have been provided nourishing diet to develop their strength and stamina. At lunch they were always provided dal and rajma with chappatis .Meat or fish was only given at dinner and that even not on all days Breakfast was slightly better with two eggs and four buttered slices but the single glass of milk given in the morning was excessively diluted, depriving it of much of its nutritive value Even this sub standard milk was not given regularly owing to surprising unavailability The caterers in charge of the camp, seemed to be taking their share of the spoils, by not providing items like milk daily and giving poorly cooked food

In contrast to the spartan diet at Srinagar, at Jakarta the players got abundant food for their meals For breakfast they could choose from 25 items inclusive of varieties of fruits, cheese, eggs, breads, porridge, cornflakes, milk, sweets and other items For lunch and dinner choice was from 30 items, inclusive of mutton, beef, pork, fish, chicken, rice and numerous vegetables and desserts It was also found that players from countries like Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea were provided such nourishing food throughout their training sessions which are conducted all the year round, inclusive of regular competitive matches against top class foreign or local opposition Unfortunately in India only lip-service is paid to the promotion of football at the grassroots level so standards have remained stagnant

In all countries special emphasis is laid on schoolboy football as from this tender age talent can be nurtured to form match-winning combinations in the future In India junior football is treated in a lackadaisical and arbitrary manner For instance the Indian Schools team returning from Jakarta came via Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, but with characteristic unenterprise, no matches were arranged at these venues So these trips became mere shoping sprees or official visits for the team's manager N A Khan, Chairman of the touring committee of the AIFF Unless football at school level in the country is treated more competently, standards will remain steeped in mediocrity as all talent tends to get stifled or untapped or neglected

NOVY KAPADIA

MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS MEET

Something better than nothing

FOR at least ten athletes who have been nominated by the Amateur Athletic Federation of India for the Moscow international athletics meet on August 6 and 7 the long, hard grind at the coaching camps became more rewarding than in the case of the so many others under training. They can forget about medals or records, because European standards are quite different from Asia's, but at least they can look forward to the opportunity of mixing and competing in higher company This in itself will be beneficial for Indian track and field standards

Except for the "Flying Sikh," Milkha Singh, before the 1960 Rome Olympics, no other Indian athlete has had the required international exposure Not even Sriram Singh On hearing how limited poor Sriram's competitive experience was before the Montreal Olympics, more fortunately placed runners of other nations, like the Cuban, Juantorena, could not help sympathising with our man

A single meet at Moscow is not sufficient when we see that leading athletes from all over the world are competing in European competitions every other day in the season Yet something is better than nothing at all One good performance in a European meet could earn an athlete invitations to more meets, which ensures an athlete his expenses and something more Who knows: one of our Moscow-bound men might impress someone in the right place

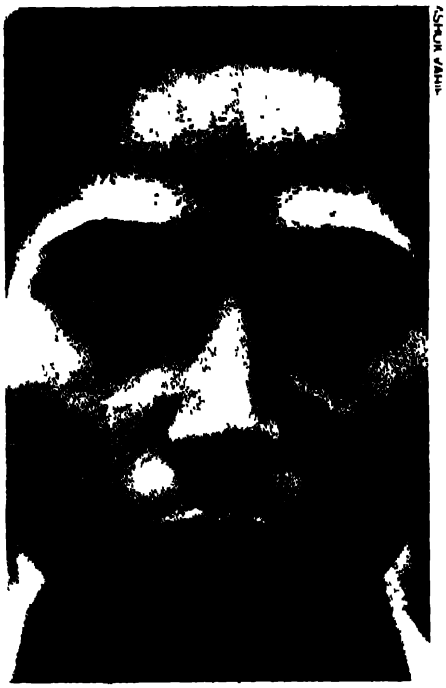
The ten in the squad to Moscow include three—Gopal Saini, A Rajan and Gita Zutshi—who will be competing on behalf of Asia at the World Cup in Rome in early September Clearly, Saini is the best of them Right now, he is in the 13 min, 52sec class in the 5,000 metres But before the season is over he may cut about 10/12 seconds off that timing After Moscow, he will be competing in the World Railways Meet at Dresden, West Germany, in the last week of August before taking part in the World Cup There are some in the Indian Railways who would prefer Saini not to make the trip to Moscow and concentrate on Dresden so that he does not "burn" himself out But a man like Saini need not put in his best in what is, after all, a "departmental" meet Even while taking it easy, he could still do his bit for our Railways

Let's not forget how the Ethiopian long-distance men are figuring in the European circuit And let's also not forget the Englishmen Seb Coe and Steve Ovett who have made weekend competition a habit Coe has not only run on blistered feet, but also been pressed into service by England in the 1600 metres relay It's sweat and toil all the way for all those aspiring for a place at the top.

For a man like Rajan, who for a long time was in the shadow of Sriram, the Moscow experience will be all the more useful After Tokyo, where he won the 800 metres gold medal in the Asian meet, this will be his second major international exposure

The Moscow venture will also provide an opportunity for international experience to some other young, promising athletes who missed Tokyo owing to injury or any other reason They are B Gowda (800 metres), Pavittar Singh (400 metres), Poonam Singh (10,000 metres) and Balvinder Singh (shot putt)

It was a pity Pavittar was not fit at the time of the Tokyo meet in June What he needs is experience in good competition on synthetic surfaces It will not be a surprise if he is able to get into the 46 sec class in the near future with the help of exposure like he will get at Moscow



Geeta Zutshi

Poonam Singh, another man who was unable to go to Tokyo because of injury, is in dire need of experience in sophisticated conditions Having run all these years on grass, dirt or bitumen, the simple soldier does not know how it feels to run on a synthetic surface A medal hope in next year's Asian Games, one expects Poonam Singh to clock well under 28 seconds for the 10,000 metres—if not at Moscow, then not long afterwards

Balvinder is a young shot-putter who will be making his maiden appearance in a foreign country A useful second stringer at the moment, there is time for him to develop before the Asian Games come around It is a good policy to keep a second string ready

Balasubramani is the best Indian 400 metres hurdler in a long time He is young and capable of improvement. Even if he did not win a medal in that event at Tokyo he should feel encouraged that the selectors have reposed faith in him

In the case of Gita Zutshi, the country's leading middle distance female runner, a tour abroad is no longer a novelty But the Moscow visit should help her sharpen her competitive edge for the World Cup Moscow will serve a more useful purpose for long jumper Mercy Mathew If the experience there enables her to get into the six-metre plus club, the Tokyo bronze medallist should be satisfied

Till the time of writing, the AAFI negotiations with other European countries, especially West Germany for competition for the 10-member squad had not produced any result A few meets after Moscow would have made the tour all the more profitable However even if our athletes find themselves out of their depth at Moscow, the visit will not be without its reward



Pavittar Singh

One wishes the AAFI is also able to arrange some good foreign competition for Sabir Ali the decathlon gold medallist at Tokyo The decathlon is not on the card of every meet But Sabir can be entered in a few chosen events which, in the long run, will help him improve his total

A CORRESPONDENT

Australia guillotined

MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI reports

AFTER Botham's insistence that he would captain if given the whole series, the English selectors were left no choice but to fall back once again on Mike Brearley, and that, only for three Tests Against India, the selectors will have to look again, but their present worry is to beat Australia, and despite playing in home conditions, this is not going to prove too easy

Both countries have been better represented in the past, but at least this contest is even, and the summer, if it can be called so, has and should provide cricket of interest, if not of an exhilarating standard

Australia won the toss and decided to bat, which could not have over displeased England, because there is early life in the Headingley wicket, and a quick breakthrough always a possibility An added bonus was the weather and the light, which changed shade as it can only do in England, giving the bowlers long periods of rest and the batsmen the discomfort of beginning the same innings over and over again

In spite of this advantage, England allowed Australia to reach a score of 203 for 3 by stumps, and this was thanks as much to three dropped catches as Brearley's delayed decision to bring Botham into the attack

England relied on four quick bowlers, but apart from Botham, none of them swung the ball to any extent, and where, as there was a time when Botham was often given the new ball, in this game Brearley preferred to cast faith on Willis, Dilley and Old for over an hour and a half

Dyson and Wood took the score to 50, with Wood the more aggressive and outpacing his partner Dyson had been a consistent failure against India in the last series, but his inclination to push instructively down the wicket must have prompted the selectors to include him on a tour where playing forward can bring unexpected dividends As any English coach will exhort "when in trouble play forward"

This attitude has fetched Dyson a number of runs in England including this, his first Test hundred in over three years and it was mainly responsible for Australia's respectable total In effect, it was the introduction of Botham which gave some penetration to the English bowling Swinging the ball into the left-hander, he had Wood lbw in his first over, but some inexplicable lapses by the English fielders allowed Australia enough relief and an opportunity to survive

While Dyson coasted to his century, Trevor Chappell, nowhere as talented as his two elder brothers, scored a patient 27 They put on 94 before Chappell went to square cut Willey and was caught behind, and in the dying moment of the day, Dyson was bowled playing across a well pitched up delivery by Dilley

The English bowlers had not made full use of a wicket which lent some help, and which will continue to do so They will have to bowl a better line, and expect a little more help from their fielders if they are to recoup the lost initiative.



Botham throws the ball up in jubilation

TILL tea time, anyway, on the second day, English cricket lacked as much lustre as the weather Nearly two hours were lost to rain, and despite Botham's belated effort, Hughes assured that Australia retained her advantage Easily the most talented and attractive batsman in his side, Hughes, although he scored 89, proved that he has yet to curb his natural temperament to take a risk Though more restrained now, realising that the team lacks the presence of Greg Chappell, he still gives the bowler some hope, even when fully in control Today his luck served him well, and he delighted a large crowd with some fluent and extravagant strokeplay He was well supported by Yallop (58) and later by Marsh (28) and by the time Botham got into full swing, Australia were safe and happy, ultimately declaring at 401 for 9 Botham's success has no doubt pleased Brearley, but a quick glance at the English bowling figures will not encourage the selectors On a wicket which never played true, neither the experience of Old and Willis, nor Dilley's somewhat quicker pace impressed Nor did England's fielding, which, if one remembers, was exceptionally good under the same captaincy only a season ago

WITH 400 on the board and only three days to go, Australia can hardly lose this game and so can afford to be even over-offensive. It was, therefore, no surprise to see Gooch and Boycott totally surrounded by close-in fielders, and the third morning saw England under some heavy pressure, when Australia dismissed three English batsmen with less than 40 runs on the board Australia also bank on quicker bowlers, and though they bowled less accurately, they were infinitely more successful

Alderman, who resembles Sikander Bakht in height as well as action, disposed of Gooch as he played across a half volley, and having beaten Brearley repeatedly outside the off stump, eventually found the outside edge of his bat One wonders for how long England can afford to have a captain who does not find a place in the side as a batsman. In this particular matter of policy, Australia thinks differently She picks her team and then the captain There is, of course, a logical

argument to opt for the alternative, but only as a temporary measure.

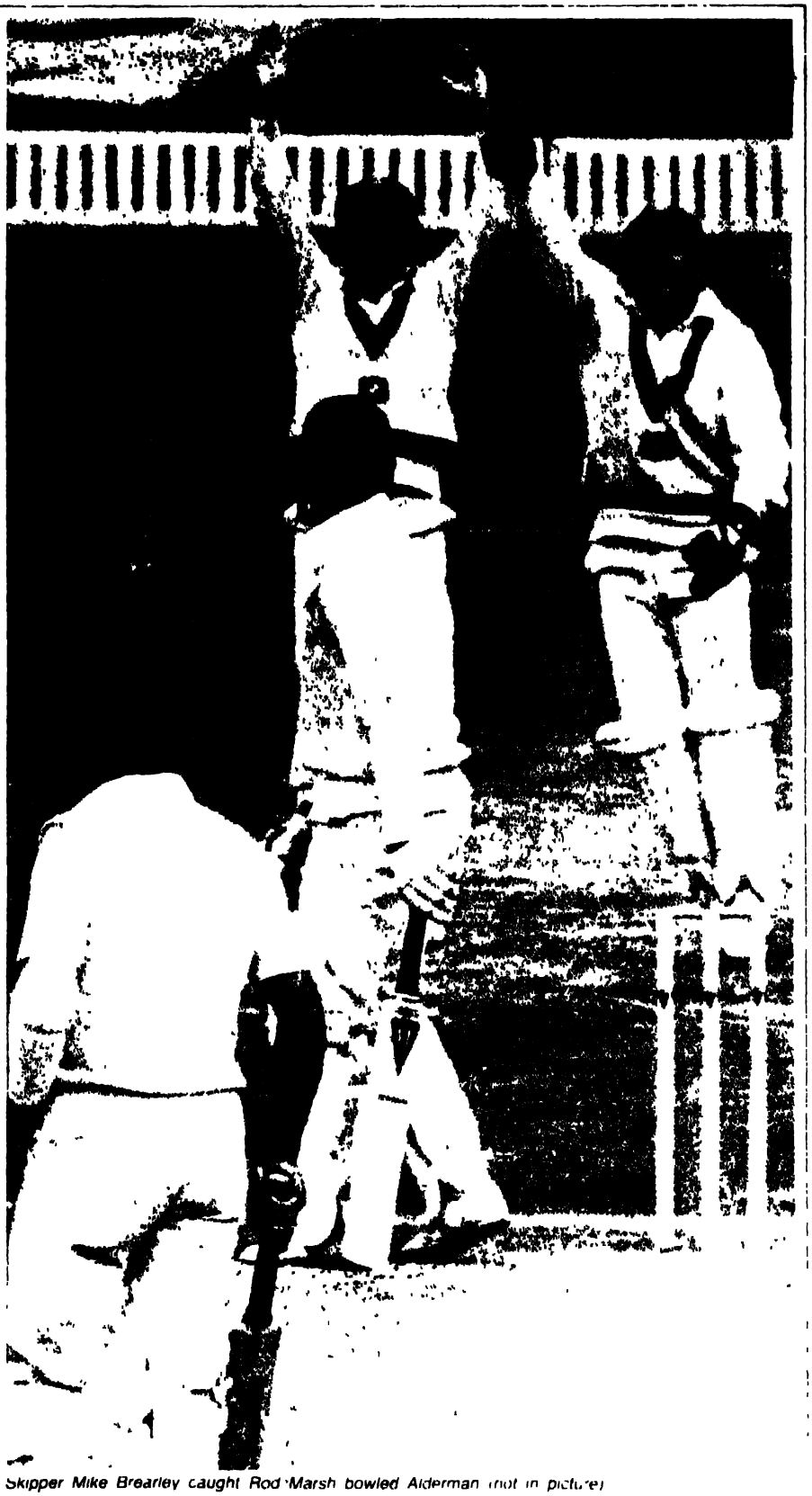
This morning, Brearley's dismissal, followed almost immediately by Boycott's due as much to the vagaries of this wicket as Lawson's pace, emphasised the lack of resilience which has become inherent in English cricket, and if Gatting had not been dropped in the over before lunch, England would have been seriously worried about saving the follow on

Unfortunately for them, this reprieve had little bearing on the final result of the first innings, and the afternoon brought about a complete rout of the English batting English County cricket with its heavy reliance on foreign players, and the fact that neither of the two major universities is any longer geared to produce batsmen of the calibre of a Cowdrey or a May, is in poor shape Further, the stress on one-day cricket tends to confuse all except the very best A combination of these factors was clearly evident as the batting collapsed for 174, after which England were asked to follow on Surprisingly, it was not Lillee, but the lesser known Alderman and Lawson who caused the initial damage Alderman was somewhat off target but moved the ball, and Lawson showed that he was the quickest in either side He also bowled straight, and when these two tired, Lillee came back to finish the task Apart from Gower, only Botham demonstrated the necessary class to make any kind of impression, the latter getting a 50 in as many deliveries. And by the time the umpires called it off, Gooch had returned to the pavilion a second time in the same day

ON an overcast, windy fourth day, England was soon in trouble All three of the Australian quick bowlers concentrated on pitching the ball around off stump, while a cordon of slips waited in anticipation The new lbw rule which forces batsmen to play at those deliveries outside the off stump which they would have padded away two seasons ago is presumably the logic behind the Australian tactics, and it paid off till Botham and Dilley decided to swing the bat, first in desperation, but later with more authority

On this type of wicket, when the occasional ball flies or moves disconcertingly off the seam, one either needs Boycott's technique or Botham's attitude, with of course, a little bit of luck Anything in between is unlikely to succeed, and this England soon discovered as wickets fell steadily throughout the day, while Boycott defended with all his years of experience

When he was out after keeping at bay the Australian attack for three and a half hours, all England's hopes went with him, and there could not have been a spectator who was not resigned to an Australian victory In retrospect, Boycott's departure and an imminent defeat allowed Botham to play the only kind of game which could have given any hope of an English revival And it worked



Skipper Mike Brearley caught Rod Marsh bowled Alderman (not in picture)

As soon as Dilley joined him, Botham began to swing his bat at practically everything, and today fortune favoured him Authentic drives through the covers and well timed strokes over mid on were interspersed with wild slashes which streaked over the slips' outstretched hands

Even Dilley was inspired to have a go He played and missed but when he did connect the fielders were left helpless It was a fightback which the crowd, predominantly Yorkshiremen, thoroughly appreciated The Australian quick bowling was soon disarrayed, and one was left wondering why Hughes did not attempt to change



Lillee seems to have taken over the umpire's job as he gets Gooch caught by Alderman (not in picture)

the tempo of the game by trying a spinner

Botham went from strength to strength to reach one of the most enjoyable and unexpected hundreds seen on this ground By the end he was 145 not out with Dilley he had put on 117 runs, and if nothing else, had saved England from the ignominy of an innings defeat

THE England innings folded early on the last day at 356 which left Botham unbeaten on 149 and Australia with the task of scoring 129 to win, and though the more optimistic English supporters may have smelled a total reversal of fortune, nobody seriously believed that the Australian batsmen would eventually fail to triumph

Nor had the wicket deteriorated to any extent, and what followed can only be described as somewhat unforeseen It was an ideal wicket for the tall and lanky Willis Alderman, only a few inches shorter, had exploited it better than either Lillee or Lawson, and where he had made the ball rise alarmingly, it was not surprising that Willis with his greater height would take even more careful watching And so it proved

There is nobody in the Australian side with either Boycott's experience or technique, and on this wicket only Hughes had the ability to play a Botham-type innings Hughes failed and the others were unsure of when or how to tackle the situation

Australia started well enough in spite of losing Wood early The idea seemed to be to take quick singles to keep the scoreboard moving, and it worked initially But the wicket and Willis were quite capable of producing the unplayable ball, and Australia succumbed with some uncertain batting in the face of some hostile and accurate bowling

There were flashes of resistance from Lillee and Bright, but by then the damage had been done and England have now squared the series

Brearley has once again been successful as captain, but as mentioned earlier he is not available to tour India this coming winter So, despite this extraordinary win, inspired by Brearley and effected by Botham and Willis, who took eight for 43 in the Australian second innings, England will be looking for another leader There is much speculation whether a captain should be found within the present England team or imported from outside And who knows? If Brearley wins this series, he may well be tempted to change his mind

Pictures by AP


PUMA
ROBERT

Third Test in pictures

Pictures: AP



Trevor Chappell gets a life as Botham and Willis miss a catch between them

Australian captain Kim Hughes in full flow against Graham Dilley



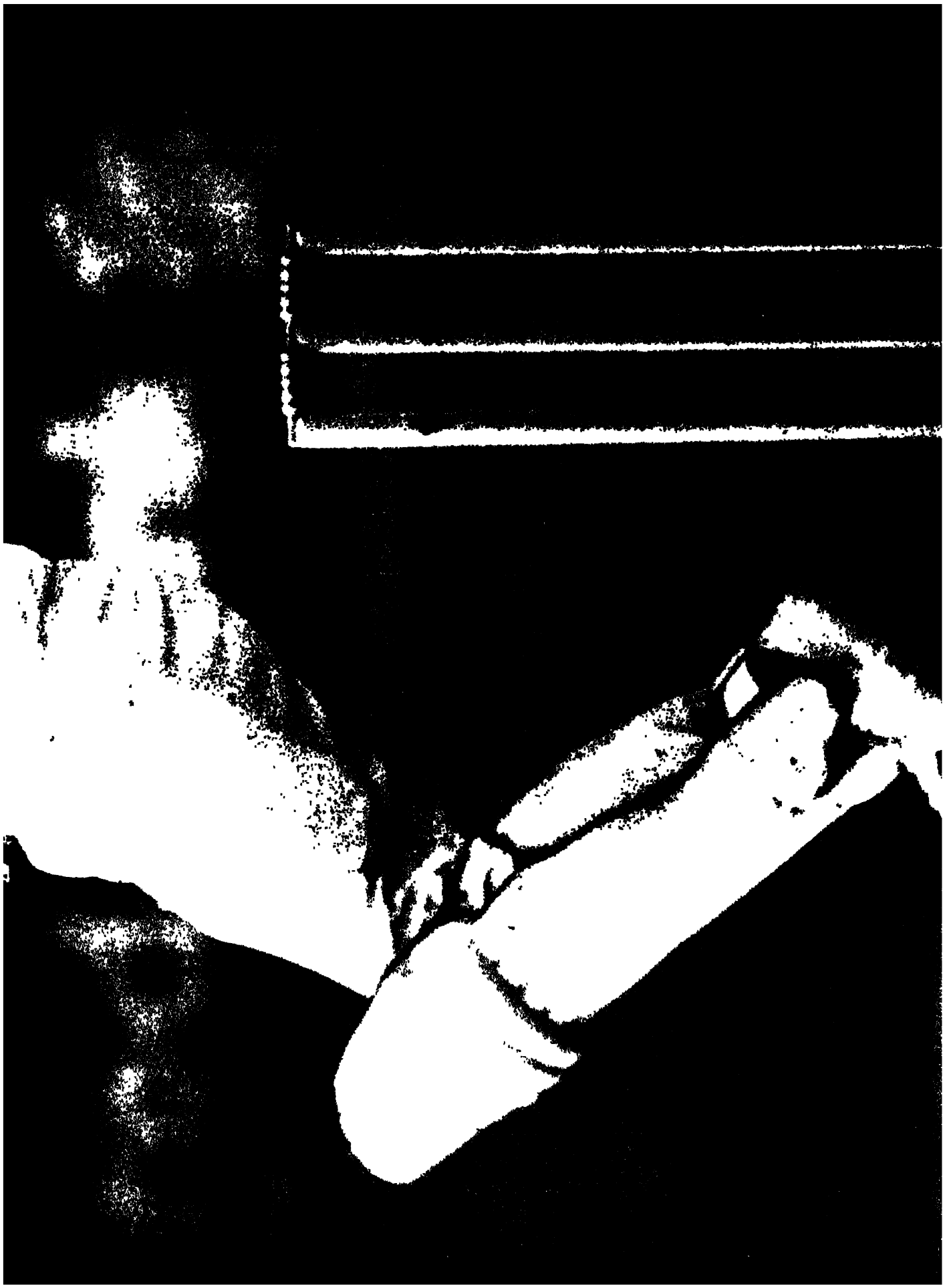


England captain Mike Brearley fields as John Dyson plays his predecessor Ian Botham

Graham Dilley scatters the stumps of Ray Bright for only 7







The rebirth of a gallant all-rounder

ASHIS RAY describes Ian Botham's comeback

ON the final day of the Lord's Test, Ian Terence Botham drove out of the Grace Gates a lonely, disconsolate figure The same ground had been the venue of many of his triumphs, including the picking up of his hundredth victim in Tests—Sunil Gavaskar—in 1979 But after twelve undistinguished matches as captain of England, culminating in his getting a "pair" in that second Test against Australia, and consequently, the loss of the leadership, the modern prince of English cricket had indeed become a pauper And it appeared, moreover, that it would take an indefinite time for him to recover the lost fortune

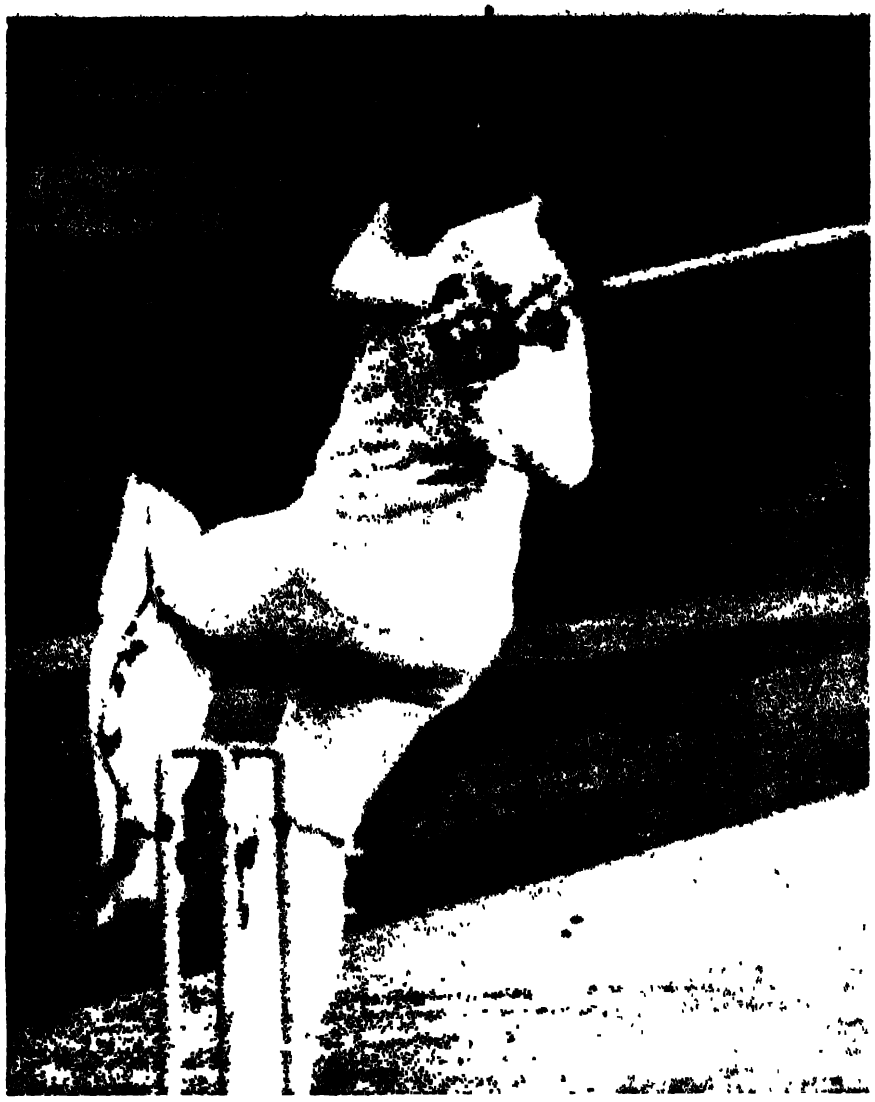
But precisely a fortnight later at Headingley, after one of the most astonishing all-round performances, which only he, in contemporary cricket, could muster, he had returned as the glory and grandeur of English cricket—the toast of the cricketing fraternity It did not win him back the captaincy—it was too late for that—but it earned England an incredible victory and reinstated Botham to his erstwhile status of cricketer extraordinary. What other conclusion can one draw after a man has taken seven wickets in a match, including six in one innings and scored 50 and 149 not out in the two ventures?

To the traditionalist, Botham was always a rebel who wore the wrong clothes, or said the wrong thing. To the purist, he was the man who comprehensively lost his form as soon as he was promoted to the captaincy Also, his stewardship was largely uninspiring, which is why in the current series the selectors were reluctant to offer him anything more than ad hoc appointments

Not surprisingly, he tired of this treatment, and after stumps on the final day at Lord's approached Alec Bedser, chairman of the selection committee, with the request that he be either retained for the remaining encounters straightaway or relieved of the burden

The selectors, having already decided to remove him, accepted his resignation, which, at least, steered them away from the unpleasantness of dismissing him

Soon after this episode, Botham revealed "I had a chat with Bob Willis, the vice captain, and Bernie Thomas, the team's physiotherapist, and told them I was giving up Family pressure had a lot to do with it. The rest of the team were shocked and surprised. But I would have given up the job, win or lose this match".



Botham in action the England and Somerset all-rounder made a spectacular comeback at Headingley

Then, answering a question, he remarked "I dont think I was too young for the job If I had been fifteen I would have taken it But I just wished that there had not been so many Tests against the West Indies at the start"

Bedser endorsed that last sentiment, stating "He learned more in his matches against the West Indies last summer and last winter than many captains learn in a lifetime" He also clarified "He did not hold a pistol to out heads, as has been suggested. He is not like that The biggest factor in wanting a change is that we think it is affecting his form The best way to find out if this is true is to see how he plays when relieved of the responsibility And I think he could be back one day as the England captain"

At Headingley, right from the word "go", it became obvious that Botham, released of the captaincy, and perhaps, with Mike Brearley at the helm, is unrecognisable from the immediate past He seemed a man reborn, liberated from the chains, that infectious grin back on his face, and his arms raised in a fist every time he took a wicket or passed fifty or a hundred

Indeed, he claimed a victim in his very first over, and captured five more in the Australian first innings Then, he top scored with 50 in an otherwise inglorious England reply of 174 Finally, he produced that knock of rare adventure in remaining unconquered on 149, his highest Test score

In the concluding chapter, it was he who obtained the initial break, but other than that took a superb catch in the slips to confirm that he was back at his best even as a fieldsman. What more could his critics ask for, what more could anyone, for that matter?

"It feels fabulous" he said after his amazing display. And was he now convinced that the captaincy was weighing him down? "It's a bit of a 'Catch 22' situation, isn't it"? was the response.

So, Bedser has got the message he was seeking, and it is very doubtful if he and his colleagues will be particularly inclined towards calling him back to the captaincy in the near future. It's just not worth their or England's while.

Procter—yes, Procter—for England captain

ALAN GIBSON, examining the question of who should lead the England side scheduled to tour India this winter, suggests the name of Mike Procter as Brearley's logical successor

THE appointment of Brearley as England captain was made on the basis that he was the likeliest man to save the series against Australia. This was, in principle, a correct decision, because beating Australia should be regarded as an end in itself, not a preparation for anything else. Even if none of your best eleven are going to be able to make the following tour, they should still be chosen. Still, it does make you wonder about who is going to be captain in India next winter

Brearley has repeated that he will not be available, though I suppose the decision might not be irreversible, since it is reported that he may be visiting there as a journalist Botham might be reappointed, if he recovers his form, though that cuts both ways for the poor chap For if he does, there will be plenty to say "Just shows how much better he is when he's not captain."

Botham's departure was gracefully handled, without recriminations, though he was wrong in believing that there was anything derogatory in being made captain on a match-by-match basis. The great majority of England captains, at home, have been so appointed

I have much sympathy for him When he was given the job, it was the general opinion that he was too young for it by a couple of years or so. But there was really nobody else Brearley, by announcing that he would not tour again, had effectively invited the selectors to choose a successor.

Fletcher would have made a good captain, but he was not so young, and even at his best was never a famous player of fast bowling—and it so happened that the next two rubbers, consecutively at home and away (a stupid arrangement) were to be played against the West Indies, with their four very fast bowlers.

Rose might have been a good choice, but you must remember that at the beginning of the 1980 season he had not come near to establishing himself in the England side. Then, in the West Indies, he had eye trouble and had to come home early. I have seen him bat well several times this season, and he may come into the reckoning again, but eye trouble of a degree which causes a man to leave in mid-tour is something of which any selector would be wary

Other names are thrown about. Knight has never seemed quite good enough to play for England, though there were those who said the same of Lewis (the men have some similarities) before Lewis did well both as captain and batsman on the Indian tour of 1972-3 This season I saw



Procter drives in style

Knight captain Surrey against De byshire at the Oval with a lack initiative which was deplorab —though I suupose there are tho who feel a lack of initiative is desirable quality in an England ca tain, as modern Tests are played.

Gooch has his supporters, and does Gower, their preference usual depending upon the part of the cou try from which they come. I met Yorkshireman the other day wh swore that Jack Hampshire was th man, although Hampshire lost his jo as Yorkshire captain last year

Then there is Boycott John Woo cock, whose opinions I always valu ("Hail, honour'd Woodcock, enterpri ing sage!" as the poet Shenstone nea ly wrote), thought that Boycott migh be the best man to lead England i home this season, but shied away fro him as a touring captain. There wa too much going against Boycott, and h would not have been a popular choic with the players—though I do no think Brian Close, one of the selector had any business to say in public tha Boycott would not captain Englan while he was on the committee.

Botham's experience of captainc has not matured him, as had bee hoped, not least by Brearley, whos support for him made me think th original choice was the right one. He still too much inclined to a punch-up verbal and occasionally physical. Th extra responsibility has affected h play, and so has the extra weight

But it is improbable that any Eng land captain could have done muc better, in results, in those two fea some series against the West Indie He had no real adviser to whom to tur on the West Indies tour Alan Smit was desperately preoccupied wit managerial problems, Barrington die Brearley was at home He has a youn man's pride, and perhaps should hav leant more on Boucott, though Boycot is not the easiest of men to lean upo

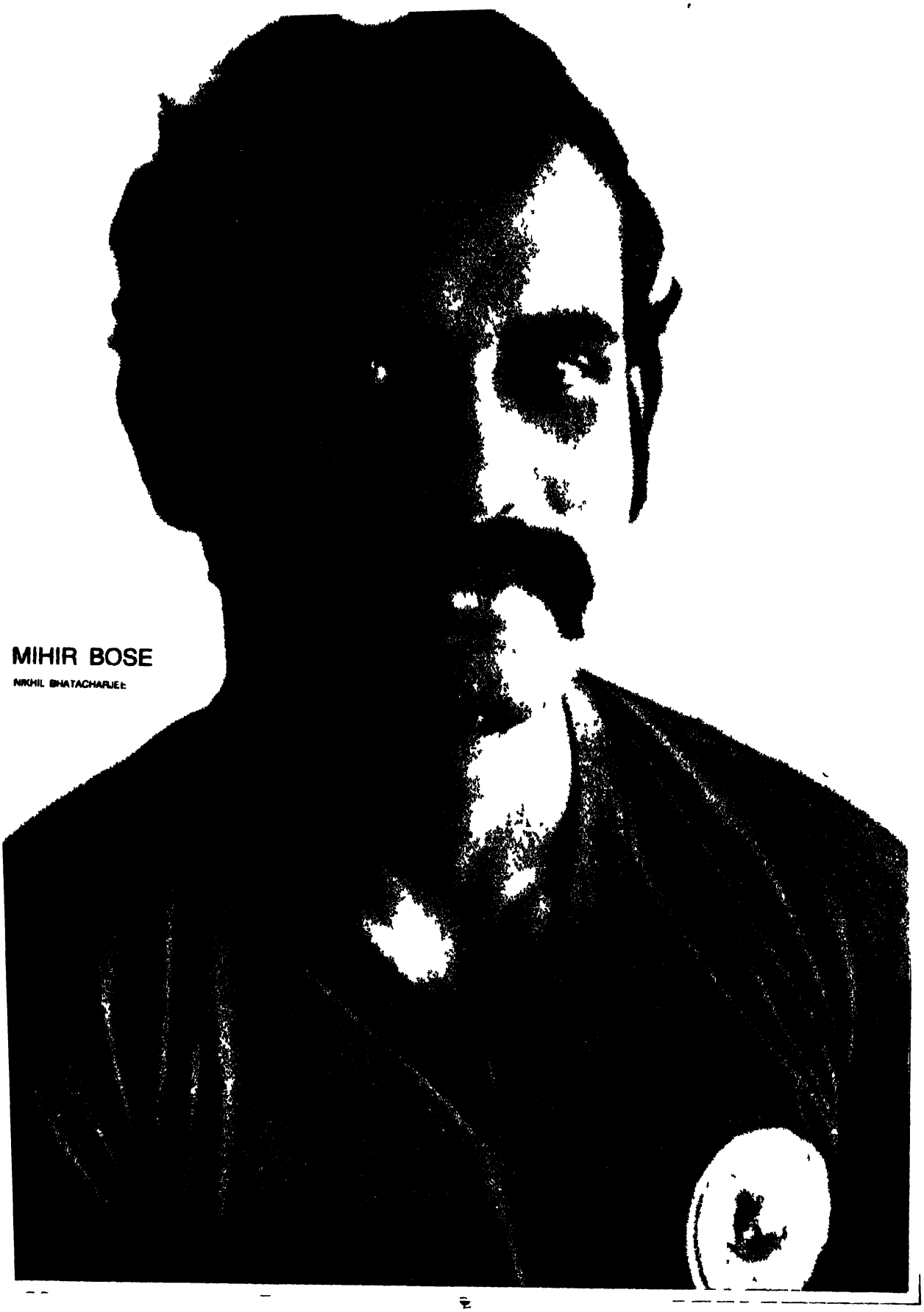
I return to the point. Who would d better? I am glad Brearley has bee chosen, but there was a better ma available, Michael Procter

Procter is now qualified to play fo England, under the new regulation Of course they are bloody silly regula tions, and there was never the sligh est chance of it happening The prin cipal reason Procter became "English was that Gloucestershire could sig another overseas player

But still, there the regulations are and if Butcher of Barbados plays for u in the West Indies, we might at leas follow the law and the logic an choose Procter for Englsand He ha shown, in his years with Gloucester shire, an ability to identify himsel with English cricket, and endear him self to English cricketers, which only a few overseas cricketers have emu lated

He is more "English" than Grei ever was. He would like to play fo England, and there are no doubt about his merit We should pick him and make him captain, or else change the rules again

Courtesy Spectato



MIHIR BOSE

NIKHIL BHATACHARJEE

Mohun Bagan confirm superiority

CHUNI GOSWAMI reports on the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal encounter

WITH little or no pressure on either side, since the fate of the Calcutta League had already been more or less decided, we were treated to some delightful soccer A repetition of the statistics of the game would serve no purpose, but I do want to mention that similar things happened some 14 years ago when Mohammedan Sporting became champions in 1967

There was, however, a slight difference in the overall picture of the championship then That year, when Mohun Bagan took on East Bengal at the Eden Gardens, a drawn encounter would have given East Bengal the League honours A win for Mohun Bagan, on the other hand, would have made Mohammedan Sporting the champions That year—just as they did this time—Mohun Bagan beat East Bengal club by a 1 0 margin Incidentally I was the scorer for my club that day and a surprise awaited me at my residence that evening—some delicious food courtesy the famous Aminia Restaurant of Calcutta—a sumptuous dinner for 50 people!

This time, though, the outcome of the match had little bearing on the final result of the League as Mohammedan Sporting were well ahead of Mohun Bagan, the nearest team by two clear points, before the match This win for Mohun Bagan was a moral victory, certainly, but with little other significance

Much has been said of ground conditions at the Eden Gardens in the monsoon, during which season good football is just not possible at this venue Fortunately, there had not been much rain and though the ground looked very inviting from a distance I must stress that conditions underfoot were very trying for the players The venue turned out to be yet another notorious "sticky dog", the kind of surface which takes a heavy toll on the men playing the game in terms of power and muscle energy

Thus it was not at all surprising that the match, which began at whirlwind pace, eventually slowed down dramatically—the reason being the ground conditions Because of this, the older group Sudhir, Habib, Surajit, Shyam Thapa and Majid (if indeed he was injured) all seemed rather off colour By way of comparison, the younger, more powerful players like Mihir, Subrata, Monoranjan and the sprightly Samar were all obvious successes on the day

Coming back to the game, the match was clean and those players who were expected to play well—given the condition of the ground—performed according to expectations East Bengal adopted the right system and approach, initiating more moves than Mohun Bagan in the first half and creating a few chances as well The functioning of the East Bengal half line was quite praiseworthy Machado rightly kept himself just behind Jamshid and Majid One inspired rasping shot towards the Mohun Bagan goalmouth hit the outer left post, to the mortification of the East Bengal supporters

The domination by East Bengal in the first half was possible only because of the three medios It would really have been a wonderful success for this team had the two Iranians raised their game to the same level

In the absence of two fluid wingers, East Bengal did the right thing by adopting the 3 3 4 system with positive strikers Majid, Jamshid and Francis ahead In fact, East Bengal held territorial sway during the first half, only because they dominated the "preparation zone"—the midfield with the three half-backs in total command

While Machado prowled behind the three strikers waiting for an opportunity, the other two Farid and Amalraj worked overtime alongside the touch line, covering at least 50 or 60 yards It was obvious that they wanted to beat the Mohun Bagan deep defenders in the air but Samar being quite tall and a good header was able to give Subrata good support in aerial tussles as a result of which there were hardly any chances in the air for the Iranians

Unfortunately, Jamshid is a poor ball player and he had no alternative but to try in the air, but it was most

Pius sends the ball home with Sudhir and Biswajit trying to stop it in vain



Coaches' views

After the match, SARAJIT DEB spoke to the coaches of Mohun Bagan, SANKAR BANERJEE and East Bengal, SANTO MITRA respectively

SANKAR BANERJEE: Even though this match did not have much importance in the League, it was a prestige nevertheless as Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are arch rivals We had beaten them in the Federation Cup and we wanted to prove our superiority once again We badly needed this victory because it would help inculcate a fighting spirit for the matches to come and also for the tournaments that are to follow after the League

What was very good about my side was that all the players were mentally prepared for the match Even those who were not in the team had been infused with this spirit and were helping the others

East Bengal started well because they had adopted a new strategy to combat which my players were finding it difficult to adjust. Gradually, though, my players began to take control of the proceedings We missed a few chances in the bargain but so did they, although I think we got more openings

From the East Bengal side, the player who caught the eye was Monoranjan Bhattacharya He fought very well and covered a great deal of ground All my defenders played well, especially Subrata Bhattacharya Mihir Bose also functioned well, working very hard The main reason we won was because all my boys displayed tremendous fighting spirit

SANTO MITRA: In these matches, the team that utilises its chances best always comes out victorious Both sides this time wasted too many openings, although Mohun Bagan scored on one such occasion On the other hand, my players failed I think the basic fault with my team is lack of involvement They did not play as a team, there was no team spirit and most of the players participated as if it was something they had no option but to do

The day before the match, I spoke to the players and it was decided by all that we should adopt the 4-3-3 system. The main reason for this was that we have no positive wingers in the side And I think, we were not wrong in our assessment In the initial stages, my midfielders gained superiority in the midfield and we enjoyed the upper hand during that period. We even created a few openings, but poor marksmanship let us down. Gradually, my players started losing ground and when the goal was scored, it seemed as if the whole team was stranded Even after conceding the goal, we created openings but time and again bad shooting by the Iranians let us down

Coming to the individual assessment of my players: Biswajit Das in goal played well He could have done absolutely nothing when the goal was scored He tried his best and even got a hand to the ball, but could not gather it Monoranjan was outstanding in defence He was the best player on the ground, at least from my side If it had not been for him, the Mohun Bagan forwards would have had a field day His timely interceptions and tackles saved many a dangerous situation. I had no other option but to play Sudhir Karmakar as the other stopper Shekharan did not want to play because he has some problems with the club. It was too much to expect a perfect game from Sudhir at this age Though he was mainly responsible for the goal he played well otherwise. My two wing backs, Mathews and Dilip Palit have limited abilities. While Dilip, using tough means, was somewhat successful in checking Surajit Sengupta, Mathews failed He is generally a very safe player, but does not have the necessary speed When the goal was scored, he should have covered the open space, but that would have been asking too much from my wing backs.

In the half-line, Joseph Machado was easily the most outstanding player In the first half he was assisted to a certain extent by Amalraj, but as the match progressed, for some weird reason he seemed to fade away Fareed may have looked positive, but he was far from it He got a lot of free balls in the initial stages but he mispassed them He also failed to snatch the balls from the opponents

Machado on the other hand kept a close vigil on Mihir (especially in the first half) whom I knew would play as a withdrawal forward About the strikers, the less said the better They did not do anything positive at all

From the Mohun Bagan side, Shibaji hardly had anything to do, for he was scarcely tested On two occasions he was stranded, first when Machado's shot hit the post and again when Subrata gathered a Shyamal Banerjee backpass Gautam Sarkar, played well, but he was far from the form he is capable of producing. He and Habib, however, tried to create openings whenever they got the ball by virtue of through passes, which was not the case with my linkmen My halves failed to create openings.

Their forward line played in patches. Xavier Pius is a wonderful player Perhaps in Calcutta he alone can be dangerous without the ball He created a lot of trouble for my defence. Mihir was a bit subdued in the first half, but when my halves failed to check him, he was dangerous Ulaga did not play as he should have, especially since he had Mathews on his side. And about their strongest point—defence—it was a very close knit unit.

Overall, the ground conditions were bad It was very hot and added to all that was the problem of sticky ground. It seemed hard on top, but it was sticky beneath the surface, although of course this was a problem that confronted both sides They won because they played as a team, which we failed to do. Also, they committed fewer errors.

Amalraj and goalkeeper Biswajit Das try their best to stop an aggressive Habib





Habib approaching the East Bengal goal with Amalraj Sudhir Manoranjan and goalkeeper Biswajit Das trying to cover him

surprising to see that Majid did not even once take on the responsibility of trying to hold or dodge past a single opposing defender in front of the Mohun Bagan goalmouth This made it rather easy for the Mohun Bagan deep defenders to stave off the onslaught by the East Bengal medios Although they did falter on a couple of occasions, this is always to be expected in an encounter involving two teams of this calibre lasting 70 minutes

Mohun Bagan was undoubtedly a better team in the second half and richly deserved the victory Except for Habib to some extent, the functioning of the team in the 4-2-4 system was most cohesive and purposeful, maintaining the right margin of ground among the backs, linkmen and forward line Habib has certainly seen his best days but his role in the team is akin to that of Mike Brearley as England Captain Although he does not meet with much personal success, this footballer is a constant source of inspiration to his boys, especially when the chips are down

The Mohun Bagan team is lucky to have Mihir Bose, who, apart from being a striker, covers more ground than expected Mihir has come of age With his fluid dodging, he has caught everybody's imagination He too is a team man although he is not exceptionally gifted

Ulaganathan is at times responsible for the smooth functioning of Mohun Bagan's 4-2-4 system He is still fast and despite being timid he is capable of stretching the opposing flank backs in a manner that benefits both strikers Pius, though he is basically a striker, is not essentially a beefy hitter of the ball either in air or on the ground, but I have rarely seen a better passer of the ball

Since Mihir had to fall back a lot, Xavier needed a sharp shooter with him all along and things would have been much rosier than this 1-0 victory--there could have been many more goals

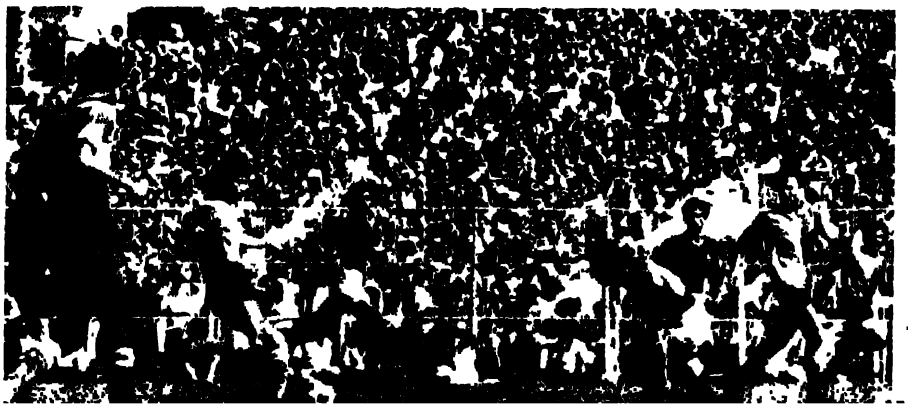
The loopholes in the Eas. Bengal deep defence were there in plenty Except Monoranjan, nobody in the team's deep defence deserves to play for a big team As far as "man to man" covering or zonal covering is concerned, it was pathetic to watch the East Bengal defence in action This line survives partly because of Monoranjan but I am afraid that by comparison Subrata, position play wise, is still miles ahead of Monoranjan, who will learn with the passage of time

Lastly, it is necessary to mention the causes for the all important goal Sudhir, who was a very fine player in his day, was distinctly in two minds and is now not fit enough to jump high He hesitated and Xavier, without being diagonally covered by any of the backs, had all the time in the world to net the all important goal of the day



Majid and Shyamal involved in a tussle as Subrata waits in readiness to tackle the situation

Machado advancing with the ball



Both sides missed too many chances

P. K. BANERJEE, while analysing the trends of the much-awaited encounter, points out that the standard of football in India leaves much to be desired

GENERAL speculation favoured a draw between arch rivals Mohun Bagan and East Bengal although it was clear that if any one team had the edge it would be the former Since I have coached both clubs I knew exactly what East Bengal are capable of—which only a person of my experience can gauge

Frankly, the East Bengal supporters have a strange quality they are of the opinion that their side is capable of beating both Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting and that East Bengal is perhaps the best outfit in the country as well This I think is undoubtedly East Bengal's most precious asset If any East Bengal player response with a goal in the toughest of situations, the applause and natural outburst of emotion has to be seen to be believed This factor is capable of raising a team's game to dizzy heights

I have seen several matches when a Mohun Bagan victory seemed a foregone conclusion but a single goal against the run of play can work miracles I can cite umpteen examples when East Bengal have risen literally out of the ashes, but unfortunately for them their last two matches revealed that they came close to scoring at crucial moments Dame Luck did not smile at them

In their crucial encounter against Mohammedan Sporting, East Bengal were down by a solitary goal but squandered three gilt-edge chances one after the other Had they succeeded on any one of these attempts they would have been back on the right track But that was not to be and anyone would have been shocked at the outcome of that match

Against Mohun Bagan this time, East Bengal had their chance to forge ahead in the initial stages of the match when they put everything into their attack True, their winger Ulaganathan missed from shakehand range but this was because the angle was so very acute Besides, Ulaga does not have a positive left-footer

Then came East Bengal's three best opportunities First, a corner from Majid floated over Mohun Bagan custodian Shivaji Banerjee as well as Jamshid and Subrata Bhattacharya It landed in front of C D Francis, who did the only correct thing in the entire game, backpassing to Jamshid But the latter flopped, kicking wide off the mark although he was right in front of the goalmouth There followed a chance for Majid, who stretched to connect the ball—which bounced strangely—but missed from point blank range after being hotly chased by Subrata The third chance culminated in a miraculous save both for Shivaji and Mohun Bagan Subrata mistimed a header 20 yards from the goalline—this was the only mistake he made in the whole match—and Majid cushioned the ball neatly for an onrushing Machado to unleash the best shot of the day However, this struck the left upright and went out, leaving the goalkeeper dazed for a while and no doubt giving the Mohun Bagan fans mild heart attacks

That was all for East Bengal Had they availed of at least one opportunity, the story would have been different

The all-important goal netted coolly by Xavier Pius in the second half saw a scene similar to the one Biswajit Das had to face against Mohammedan S C in their previous big league engagement In this case, the worst was inevitable, for when Monoranjan Bhattacharya is not around to cover up, the other three look very slow when it comes to marking players or covering the vital zone

Once Pius had scored past Biswajit Das's outstretched hands Mohun Bagan could have added a couple more

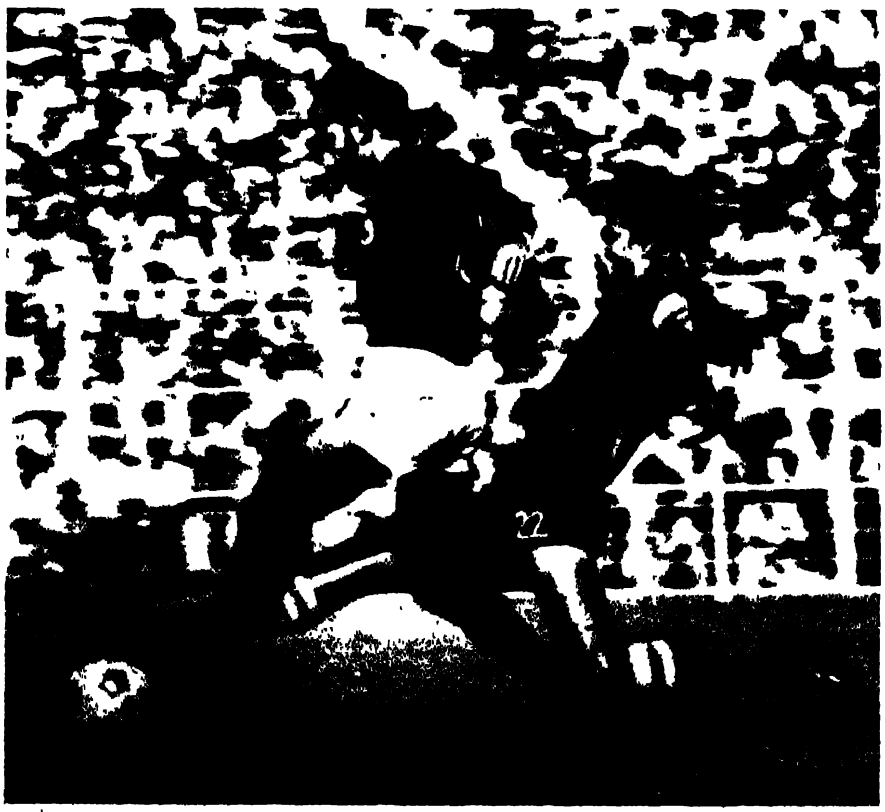
Biswajit manages a goal line save while Monoranjan and Sudhir watch anxiously and Ulaganathan looks on in expectation NITAI BHATTACHARYA





D P SINHA

Mohun Bagan players exult after scoring what proved to be the match winner



Mihir Bose gets the better of Joseph Macnado

goals from three near goal scoring chances To prove my point, Habib who has slowed down considerably, was able to take Mathews, Sudhir Karmakar and towards the end Monoranjan on a diagonal foray, running 40 metres with the ball only to falter with his battered right foot in the six yard box

Then we saw a fine piece of opportunism when Surajit Sengupta capitalised on a momentary misunderstanding to collect a loose centre from the right Seeing this, Biswajit Das came out to collect, hesitating for a fraction of a second as he saw his onrushing team-mate Mathews stumble When Surajit saw Biswajit off guard he sneaked in, beat both the goalkeeper and Mathews, then backpassed neatly for Mihir Bose—who played like a Trojan after the breather, giving his team stability—but who missed the easy chance because he wasted too much time The third chance was an angular shot by Surajit from nearly 12 yards out which Biswajit saved on the goalline at the second attempt

The Mohun Bagan attacking line easily outpaced the East Bengal deep defence, while on the other hand East Bengal's three forwards posed a few problem for the solid Mohun Bagan defence Monoranjan was definitely the most outstanding in the rear line,

Maidan musings

A Mohun Bagan-East Bengal match on the Calcutta Maidan is a festival. Such occasions are just not matches any more. It does not matter if both the teams are out of the running for the Calcutta League honours. As a 15-year-old soccer enthusiast said: "Even if these two teams play in the fourth division, the same crowd will turn up and the tempo will be just as high as it normally is."

Very well said. Tradition, prestige and lot of other factors go along with this match. But what one found very strange this year was the lack of enthusiasm in the East Bengal camp. Usually, it is the other way around. The East Bengal players, officials and supporters are confident of victory, irrespective of the strength of rival teams. Perhaps, the fact that they lost both to Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting in the Federation Cup a few months ago and were again defeated by the black-and-white jerseys in the Calcutta League was at the back of their minds.

On the other hand, the Mohun Bagan camp (players, officials and supporters) were confident "I can say one thing with conviction· we'll not lose We are confident of our defence. We know that in the small matches they have let in a few goals, but that was mainly because they did not take those games seriously. But if they play seriously, which they will naturally do in the match, East Bengal will not be able to score against us. For that reason, we cannot lose. And if by God's grace, we manage to score, we'll win," said a Mohun Bagan fan before the match. He was right. The Mohun Bagan defence did not allow the East Bengal forwards to score and Xavier Pius gave them that vital goal which sealed the fate of the match. There were two visible pictures after the match—one of joy and the other of sorrow.

That sport is far above politics was proved when the PWD Minister Jatin Chakravarty (of the Left Front) embraced Subrata Mukherjee, a Congress(I) leader after the match. That they belong to two different parties did not matter. Their team's victory was more important for those two ardent Mohun Bagan fans.

The Mohun Bagan players entered the Club House of the Eden Gardens (the dressing room) amidst loud cheering The players were congratulating each other and in one corner stood the captain of this year's team, Pradip Choudhury, who has hardly played a match this season. Compton Dutta came and shook hands with him and with tears of joy running down his cheeks said: "We beat them again, captain."

Pradip said: "I think the match was better because there was no League pressure. A lot of chances were created and I think we deserved our victory. It was a prestige issue and we turned out to be successful." The man who scored that all-important goal was, naturally, the apple of everyone's eye

He was showered with congratulations and in between acknowledging the cheers said: "I was not fit for the match. In fact, till about 15 minutes before the commencement, I was sure I would not play because of my groin injury But Mannada (Sailen Manna) and Bhattacharyada (Subrata Bhattacharya) told me to enter the field and play as long as I could They told me that the moment I felt uneasy I could come off For the interest of the team I entered the field It was a great experience scoring a goal against East Bengal in Calcutta. In fact, till last season I had never scored against them The two goals that I scored in the Federation Cup at Madras were my first and now there is this. When I got that ball, I wanted to make sure that it entered the net. For that reason I went close to the goal. I was sure that Sudhir Karmakar would not be able to reach me. I'm feeling so happy that I cannot express it in words. It was simply terrific."

In all that happiness that enveloped the Mohun Bagan dressing room someone asked Shivaji Banerjee, the custodian, as to why he did not make an attempt to save the Machado shot Pat came his reply "There were three players in front of me and my view was obstructed. We were lucky that the ball hit the post. But we created more openings and we were definitely the better side "

Prasun Banerjee, the star of the Mohammedan Sporting-East Bengal match came and congratulated the Mohun Bagan players on their victory and then went to the adjacent East Bengal camp and consoled their players He was followed by Subrata Bhattacharya, Surajit Sengupta and Pradip Choudhury who also consoled the East Bengal players, who were sitting down with their heads in their hands Dilip Paul, the substitute goalkeeper was clearly in tears. What must have been more painful for the players was the humiliation they faced when they were coming back to the dressing room after the match, as they were showered with the choicest of abuse by spectators

This humiliation continued in their match after this defeat The team had to be escorted by police on to the ground Even that did not save them from a few stones and some of the supporters even spat on the players. When the team left the field during the interval to refresh themselves, they were again showered with both abuse and stones. The police took action and dispersed the crowd but it was indeed a sad experience for the East Bengal players



The dejected East Bengal players after the match



A weeping Majid being escorted off the ground by his compatriots Khabra and Jamshid

while in the vital midfield area, Machado played well in the first half and looked a constant danger Fareed performed in patches but the replacement axe fell on him Amaltaj was lost in the second half Among the forwards, the injured Majid could not do much, while C D Francis looked as if he had been given the best grandstand ticket to watch this prestigious match Jamshid was sandwiched between Samar Bhattacharya and Subrata Neither his movement nor his approach was any real threat to the rival defence

With regard to formation, it is not the simplest thing to quit one particular pattern of play in favour of another To do something like this requires plenty of time and hours of practice The team must become conversant with the moves, and must be able to alternate freely between defence and offence, always functioning as a cohesive unit This also requires a positive plan without which it is not feasible to put three forwards against four defenders In this regard, East Bengal did not have the time to adjust to the system they used for this game Inspiration alone cannot cover up a team's weakness It has to be backed by organised and dedicated home work

Shivaji looked a picture of confidence, especially on air borne floaters He faced practically no stiff shots apart from Machado's rasping kick which had him guessing Subrata, Samar Shyamal and Compton all did their jobs efficiently Subrata played mostly as a free defender allowing Samar to mark Jamshid effectively which he did Except for that one blemish the shot of Machado's Subrata was indeed outstanding In the



Monoranjan Biswajit and Das during a tense moment in front of East Bengal goal



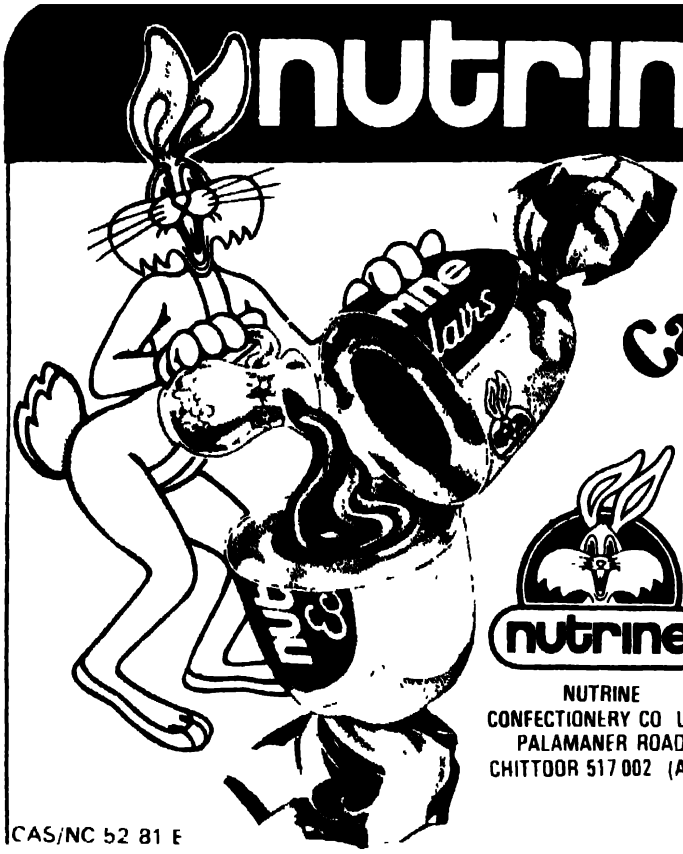
Mihir dribbles past Majid while Monoranjan looks on from a distance

midfield Habib definately looked out of place during the first session, while Gautam struggled to find his form Mihir Bose rendered yeoman service falling back to help the medios and taking the ball upfield dribbling well and feeding his forwards constantly

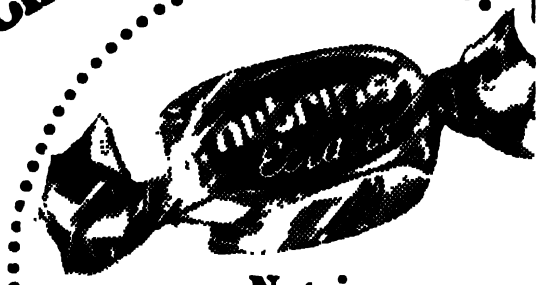
Ulaganathan has created or availed of beautiful goal scoring chances in every match He is always seen in constant motion, whether he has the ball or not, only to see 90 per cent of his effort going waste due to erratic and feeble shots Xavier Pais though not fully fit, had the unique chance of netting three goals against his arch rivals in three outings With his ability, he is capable of being the most dangerous forward in the country, if he becomes a little bolder

But way of conclusion, it is a sad commentary on the standard of Indian football that we are happy with the fare dished out where every third pass is a mispass, where only one if that at all --in every four setters is converted into a goal

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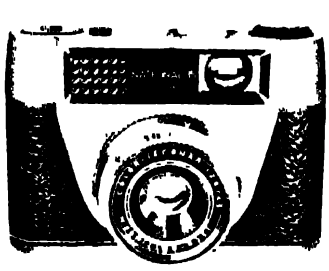
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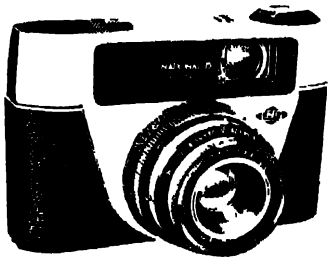
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Interview

Team spirit was the key

The player who has made a habit of reserving his best for the big day, SUBRATA BHATTACHARYA, tells SARAJIT DEB that team spirit, along with other factors helped his team win

SPORTSWORLD: What is your impression of the match? Was the result a true indication of the game?

SUBRATA BHATTACHARYA. It was a fair result. We played better and won. What was remarkable about this match was that both teams played an open game, thus creating a lot of chances. Their best opportunity came when Majid backpassed to Machado, whose shot hit the post. That was sheer bad luck. Nowadays a lot of goals are scored in this fashion—the halves running in and shooting home. They got that chance because of a defensive lapse on our part but I can say that the chances we got were more creative. That we missed those openings is a different matter.

SW. Why do you think East Bengal were able to dominate the first half?

SB. I agree that they held territorial supremacy in the first half. We knew that they would use the 4-3-3 formation and for that reason, one of our strikers (Mihir) was instructed to fall back a little and hold the centre half in check. His duty was to see that Machado did not cross the centre-line. Mihir was doing his job when we were on the defensive, but when we moved up on the attack, he was not able to come back quickly when they counter attacked and their halves were playing free. Initially, I had told Samar to mark Jamshid and I was playing as a sweeper but when we saw that Mihir was failing to come down, we changed our strategy in the second half. Samar was asked to watch Machado and I kept Jamshid. That helped because the man-to man marking became much closer, benefiting us and we began to dominate the game. The introduction of Khabazi helped us even further. He has no skill and he was playing as a withdrawal forward. We knew he was not capable of creating a chance from where he was playing and so Compton was always free and sometimes even moved up.



SW: What about the goal?

SB: Shyamal sent in a long chip from the centre of the field. As I am a defender, I think Sudhir tried to kick Xavier when he jumped to head the ball. What usually happens in these sort of situations, this occurred again. His eyes were on Xavier, so Sudhir missed the flight of the ball. Xavier moved away and gained control of the ball since the ground was slow. But I think the two side-backs should have covered the area the moment they saw Sudhir going for the header. Xavier was left with an open goalmouth in front of him, but he unnecessarily delayed in taking a shot. Biswajit could do nothing as the ball touched his outstretched hand and went in.

SW: What was the main reason for the success of your team?

SB. Their forwards failed completely. They relied too much on Majid and he disappointed them. Our defence did not give the forwards much leeway and we were successful in clearing the ball out of danger. In addition, we were able to build up our attack on the strength of these cleared balls. This meant that their defence was always under pressure, never able to relax. While our clearances were positive, because we had more time they had to adopt the safety first method because they were always under pressure and because their forwards were not being able to hold on to the ball.

Of course, the most important factor was our team spirit. Everyone, even those who knew that they would not get a chance were keyed up. They had realised that we should win the match because it was a prestige issue, not only for the club, but for the players as well. This enthusiasm is generally not seen in the Mohun Bagan side, and it helped us a lot. Then, there were the individual performances of the players. All the defenders played well, except on a few occasions when we left gaps and they got openings. Mihir worked hard and also helped the defence. Habibda was somewhat in his element in the second half and could have got a goal if he had taken the shot earlier. Surajit tried but was not very successful. Ulaga did everything, dribbled, sent in some centres, but failed to perfect those. He even missed a few chances. Xavier, though he played with an injury, was very useful for he always kept the opposing defenders on their toes because of his quick interchanging of positions.

SW. Who in the East Bengal side impressed you?

SB. Monoranjan Bhattacharya played very well, especially in the second half. He must have realised that the players he has beside him are a bit weak and for that reason he was forced to cover a lot of ground. He had a lot of speed and power and was mainly instrumental in holding the East Bengal side together. His other colleagues did not help him at all. Whenever he cleared the ball his half line did not utilise the opportunities, nor did his forwards. He was practically a one man side.

CALCUTTA LEAGUE

Mohd. SC maintain winning tempo

While Mohun Bagan and East Bengal played uninspired soccer after their clash against each other, the third "big team" retained its rhythm. SUBHASH SARCAR and SARAJIT DEB report on the matches

EAST BENGAL. It was a new experience for the home team, playing against their own crowd. The match against Bengal Nagpur Railway was scheduled immediately after their loss against arch rivals Mohun Bagan and the spectators had come to boo the players and not cheer them. In fact, when BNR shot into the lead they got a round of applause of the kind that is usually reserved for the home team.

That the players were yet to recover from the defeat was also apparent from their display. There was hardly any coordination among the players and they muffed chance after chance. Before East Bengal could settle down, BNR went into the lead from what looked like a shot taken from an offside position. Their left back Amit Dasgupta had overlapped and sent an innocent looking ball in front of the goalmouth. The whole defence was waiting for the linesman's flag to rule Tapan Biswas offside as he shot the ball into the goal. Even custodian Biswajit Das did not make an attempt to save the ball from entering the net.

However, East Bengal equalised a few minutes later when Joseph Machado's stiff shot beat BNR goalkeeper Kunal Mukherjee and entered the far corner of the net. Before the breather East Bengal were awarded a penalty, but Jamshid shot wide. It was another spot kick which helped East Bengal go into the lead. Monoranjan Bhattacharya making no mistake this time. But the validity of awarding the penalty remains in doubt. "The ball came and hit the hand of one of my defenders. It was not intentional," said BNR coach Debu Ghosh. The third goal came through Majid who headed in a Sankar Adhikari centre from the right.

MOHUN BAGAN. It was hard to believe that it was the same team that had played good soccer to beat their arch rivals just a few days back. Such was the home team's performance against Sonali Sibir. It was quite apparent that the team was just not interested in playing. They were indeed lucky to return home with full points, having won by the narrowest of margins.

There was not a single constructive move and the all important goal was more an accident than anything else. Mihir Bose had taken a shot from the top of the box. Whether it was directed towards the goal is anybody's guess. Francis DeSouza was inside the box and the ball touched his feet, deflected and went in. As the ball had changed direction at the last moment, the goalkeeper had nothing to do.

There was no life in the game and even the hardcore Mohun Bagan supporters wanted the game to end as soon as possible. It seemed the longest 70 minutes ever. Time just seemed to drag, so boring was the affair. Habib did not play because of an injury and his replacement Surjas Bera again





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Police protecting East Bengal players against supporters' wrath

found it difficult to play his natural game. He was replaced by Shyam Thapa in the second half, but it did not make any difference. Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee said that it happened "because the players tended to relax after the big match."

MOHAMMEDAN S C When the other two big clubs notched up a hat trick each through Xavier Pius (Mohun Bagan) and C D Francis (East Bengal) respectively, it became a pressure issue for Mohammedan Sporting who strove in vain for a similar achievement. In their 18th outing exuberant striker Shabbir Ali scored both his side's goals—one in each half—against gutsy Kidderpore, but a third proved impossible to get. The home side did its best to give Shabbir the third goal but all such attempts proved abortive. "Had there been a little more time I would probably have succeeded. It was quite unfortunate for me," said a depressed Shabbir in the club tent.

But the architect of both goals was the speedy winger Bidesh Bose. This in spite of the fact that he was not very impressive, since he was being successfully tackled by young Biswajit Ghosh. "Both goals were due to lapses by my second goalkeeper Ashis Pal. Had Tarun Bose been under the bar I don't think our opponents would have succeeded. Both chips by Bidesh should have been fouled by Ashis. Tarun did not play because of a pain in the neck," said Kidderpore coach Nirmal Sengupta.

Mohammedan S C did miss some good chances through Akbar (who left the field with a sprain), substitute Tapan Das, Bidesh Bose and finally medio Prasun Banerjee. A rasping volley from Prasun at a range of 25 yards rebounded off the corner of the cross piece, (to his chagrin). Prasun, who was not totally fit did not exert himself much on the day.

One cannot comment on this match without a word of praise for the Kidderpore boys who displayed gallant fighting qualities. Had their forwards displayed some more incisiveness they could have earned a couple of goals. They did miss one good chance when substitute Subhas Modak's pile-driver which only a custodian of the calibre of Bhaskar Ganguly could have saved. Bhaskar dived to fist Modak's shot brilliantly late in the second session.

Said the Kidderpore coach "We fought them tooth and nail for 70 minutes. In fact, we had no intention of falling on the defensive. I told my boys to attack and to forget that they were playing against a big team. I don't blame Ashis Pal as this was his first big match under the bar. Though the team played well as a whole, the most outstanding player was stopper-back Nirmal Roy Chowdhury. His tackling was good and he displayed good anticipation," concluded Sengupta.

Abdus Sattar, the Mohammedan S C coach, had this to say about his team's performance. "The team did not click today. The ground conditions and humidity put the damper on us, enabling the young Kidderpore boys to display their stamina. They played a spirited game though we had a number of chances. Kidderpore always put up a good show against big teams and this game was no exception."

IT was a blitzkrieg when Mohammedan S C took on lowly-placed Bhratri Sangha. Though their 6-0 triumph was the largest victory margin thus far, they could have doubled their tally had their forwards not frittered away the umpteen chances that came their way. It was sad indeed to see Bhratri custodian Tapan Paul at their mercy. "We thrashed them hands down. There is no doubt about that," said the Mohammedan coach Abdus Sattar, adding, "It was hard luck that Shabbir missed yet another chance of scoring a hat trick. We should have netted at least a dozen."

The junior team just failed to play according to the ground conditions and wilted against the formidable giants. The home side started in whirlwind fashion, scoring the first three goals within twelve minutes. Kartick Sett drew first blood off a Shabbir move when he availed of a Balai Mukherjee centre. Manash followed a minute later and in the 12th minute Prasanta beat the goalkeeper with a grounder.

Gouranga Banerjee was seen in action after quite sometime when he replaced Chinmoy. It was through his centre from the left flank that Shabbir, lying handy, headed home when goalkeeper Tapan Paul missed the flight. Shabbir scored the fifth goal five minutes before the long whistle off a combined move with Kartick Sett and Manash. Shabbir was in the running for a hat-trick but referee Pradip Nag disallowed the third goal he scored, enraging those in the green galleries. However, substitute Denis Williamson completed the tally off a Bidesh forward pass.

As for Bhratri, this defeat has put them dangerously close to relegation.

Sportspeople

Arrows that turned gold

THE cynosure of all eyes at the recent World Archery Championship, held at Punta Ala, Italy, was *Natalya Butuzova* of the Soviet Union when she wrested the overall title

The 27-year-old archer was a silver medallist at the 22nd Olympics and this feat surely proves that she had plenty of room for improvement. All the hard work and effort that she put in by way of training bore fruit at Punta Ala After a mediocre performance on the opening day (she stood eleventh) about which she felt understandably depressed, she resolved to spring back on to the scene Astonishingly, not only did she catch up with the rest of the contenders, but outclassed them all Butuzova also has five of the six "classic" world records to her credit

The archery world championship saw her chalk up 2,514 points from 288 "golden" arrows The runner-up position was claimed by Alicja Ciskowska of Poland, with 2,499 points, while Marilyn Rumley of Australia was unfortunate enough to be edged into third place by just one point

It may seem incredible that Natalya, who has now reached such dizzy heights, was once lethargic towards sport She had the potential to take up any discipline although she was quite a late starter She first visited an archery club when she was 19 Arsen Balov, the head coach of the USSR national team, considers diligence her most outstanding asset. Though not very powerfully built (she is 165 cm tall and weighs 50 kg), she is easily the most impressive on the international circuit Surprising though it may seem, not a single male can match her feat of notching up a score of 2,514 points from 288 arrows in an official competition

A patron departs

THE Karnataka sports firmament is infinitely poorer after the untimely death of *P I Joseph* (69) at Singapore on June 9 An active person throughout his life, he had taken a cultural delegation to the Far East where he breathed his last

Soft spoken and a familiar figure with a grey crop of hair, Joseph was to Karnataka sports what Vidhana Soudha is to Bangalore

His entry into the Karnataka sports field dates back to the Forties when he joined the local Binny Mills as a labour welfare officer He had just come to Bangalore after completing his graduation in Delhi

In addition to labour welfare, Joseph sought to improve the condition of sports in Binny Mills and in the State in general. His efforts resulted in Binny Mills winning the coveted Stafford Challenge Cup Soccer Tournament in the late Forties.

Joseph devoted most of his time to sports and proved to be an able administrator It was thanks to him that the various associations in the State today have their own constitutions.

He also served as the vice-president of the Bangalore District Football Association. He was like a pillar on which the BDFA rested On many occasions he contributed his mite and the BDFA were saved from many embarrassing situations

Joseph took an active interest in the organisation of other sports too.

However, the most wonderful contribution that he ever made was the formation of the Karnataka State Industries Sports and Arts Association in the early Fifties This enabled various industries in Bangalore (later in the entire State as well) to come together in the field of sports and arts Thanks to his efforts, many promising sportsmen were able to get into various industries in the State These are gifts from Joseph which no sportsman will ever forget

As its secretary, Joseph organised an athletic meet under floodlights in Bangalore Perhaps it was the first time that an athletic meet was held under floodlights in the country The KSISAA later made him its president.

Along with G G Soundhi, he was instrumental in forming the 'Olympic Recreation Movement' in the country Karnataka then hosted a conference on the 'International Recreation Movement' When the next conference was held in the United States, Joseph was an automatic choice to represent the country

The State Government too recognised his service to sports and made him a member of the State Sports Council for two terms In this capacity, Joseph proved to be a very good arbitrator A dispute in any association would be referred to him, and the aggrieved parties seldom left his office dissatisfied

World record in water treading

FOR 80 hours and two minutes *V S Anandan* was neck deep in water and that feat is going to get his name into the *Guinness Book of Records* "Water treading—Anandan, Vivekananda Selvekumar (Sri Lanka), 80 hours two minutes, Anna swimming pool, Madras"

Anandan's record-breaking effort overshadowed Norman Albert's feat of 65 hours of non stop water treading, which involves staying afloat in one spot by pedalling one's arms and legs

However, Anandan's water treading record will not be the first to put his name into the Guinness Book of Records Some of the records existing in his name are non-stop cycling (187 hours and 28 minutes), bell punching (136 hours and 38 minutes), sit-ups



(165 in two minutes), standing on one foot (33 hours) and a host of other unofficial records

A tragic death

A FORMER football international, 35-year-old *Ajaib Singh Gill* breathed his last recently in tragic circumstances

Ajaib donned national colours in the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games and the following year played in the Djakarta Anniversary Football Tournament A dependable stopper-back, he later switched over to the position of linkman.

He was a member of the Punjab football team that won the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy held at Jullundur in 1974 and 1976 Ajaib decided to hang up his boots after the Director-General of the Border Security Force decided to transfer the football team from Jullundur to Kadamtala in West Bengal His last appearance in the Football Nationals was in 1978 at Srinagar After his retirement he opted to train the battalion football team He was stationed at a border post in the eastern region

A former football Olympian, Jarnail Singh, who is currently the joint director of the Punjab Sports Department, expressed his shock at the untimely death of Mr Gill. "He was a great team man He played under me during the 1974 Jullundur Nationals, when Punjab won the title for the first time" His death is indeed a loss to the nation

News round-up

Race course for Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: The city is soon going to have a beautiful race course and a riding club A committee, set up some time ago under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary, is working out details of the race course project, while the Chandigarh Industrial and General Development Corporation has been entrusted with the task of preparing plans for setting up the club—the second of its kind in the region (Patiala already has such a club) The race course, of course, will be the first of its kind in this region

Though a final decision about the location of the club is yet to be taken, the site opposite the Rock Garden is to be chosen in all probability It will cover an area of about five acres

The race course is likely to be located near the golf club and will have a 2,400-metre track The entire turf club, including the race course, will be spread over an area of 250 acres Incidentally, Delhi also has a race course, but it is considered sub-standared and unpopular

However, it is not known whether the Chandigarh Administration has received the green signal from the Centre for setting up the proposed race course If it comes through it would benefit numerous stud-farm owners in the region who now send horses for the races either to Madras or to Bombay

According to experts, the entire cost of the race course is expected to be covered in the first six years after its inception The two committees are likely to submit their reports soon

SATISH KUMAR

Tennis tourney likely in Patna

PATNA: The Players' Association, the newly-formed tennis body of Patna with Justice Shamshul Hassan as the President and Mr Bishu Dev as Secretary, is very serious about giving tennis a facelift in the State as a whole, and the State capital, in particular

They propose to hold an international standard tennis tournament at the sophisticated New Patna Club courts some time in October this year Bishu Dev, a former Bihar tennis celebrity, said that the President of the Players' Association, Justice Shamshul Hassan, had already contacted Mr Naresh Kumar seeking assistance for this ambitious scheme He himself has requested the Pro Chairman of the State Council of Sports, Kumar Arjun Vikram Shah, to release initial grants for the renovation of the New Patna Club courts before the Dussera festival All the top tennis stars of the country including Vijay Amritraj are expected to participate in this tournament, if things move smoothly

The association had earlier arranged reciprocal tours of different district tennis teams like Patna, Nalanda and Purnea. Only recently they revived the Patna Tennis Tournament in which promising Shishir Jaiswal won the singles title and shared the doubles crown with Jeetendra Singh, defeating Raj Vardhan Sinha and Vikram Rao in the final

SAMIR SENGUPTA



Former double Olymic winner at Sapporo in 1972 Marie Theres Nadig from Flums Eastern Switzerland recently announced her retirement from World Cup skiing She won the ladies World Cup this year

Ridiculous

INDORE The MP Sports Council has decided to induct one Champa, a boatman of Onkareshwar village, in the State sports body This is indeed a shocking decision

A 16-year-old uneducated lad, having passed only class IV, Champa earns his livelihood by picking up coins from the Narmada river that cuts across the village—a holy shrine where people come and throw coins into a temple in the midst of the river

Now, it is only because he is a swimmer and hails from the rural areas that the MP Sports Council considers him fit to be a member and represent the Swimming Federation But the irony is that Champa does not even know what the sports council means

However, this is not an unprecedented case, thanks to the present formula of inducting people in various sports bodies of the State In the case of football a gentleman, having patronised and organised only one All India open tournament, was given direct entry into the State body An advocate from Gwalior who has nothing to do with wrestling now finds himself representing the sport in the council

There are several such instances especially with regard to badminton, hockey, football, cricket and table tennis Such veterans as Mr S R Chadha (badminton), Shankar Laxman (hockey) Pavitran (football), Jall (table tennis), and Mushtaq Ali have not been found suitable to represent these games in the council There is also no representative from the Vindhya region

Moreover the mass scale import of NIS coaches from outside in preference to those belonging to the State has resulted in total inactivity especially on the part of the imported ones who take it easy and are not very serious about the uplift of the standard of sports in MP

SUJEET MOHANTY

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

14 defeats after sending others in

Between 1894 and 1980 captains winning the toss invited the opposition to bat in 28 Tests between England and Australia

Each country did this on 14 occasions, with the following results

Australia	4 wins
5 losses	5 draws
England	1 win
9 losses	3 draws

One match in which England won the toss and elected to field was abandoned—the third Test of the 1970-71 series, when Ray Illingworth, in Melbourne, won the toss on the first day and elected to field before rain prevented a start and eventually caused the match to be abandoned on the third day

England's single success was achieved when J W H T Douglas won the toss in the fourth Test of the 1911-12 series, in Melbourne, in February 1912, sent Australia in to bat on a pitch with some moisture in it and won by an innings and 225 runs—biggest winning margin in all those Anglo-Australian Tests in which a side has been sent in after losing the toss. In the 1912 Test Australia were dismissed for 191 in their first innings and, after England had replied with 589, were all out for 173 in their second innings

Rain during the third night freshened the wicket and Douglas rammed home the advantage gained by his decision to field first by taking half the wickets in Australia's second innings —5/46

The victory restored the Ashes to England

While Douglas set the record for a win by a team sending the opposition in to bat, another England captain suffered the biggest defeat of those deciding to field first. His team went down by an innings and 154 in a Test in Brisbane

When he won the toss and elected to field he was no doubt influenced by the lively wicket on the same ground in the previous week against Queensland

But the Test wicket played easily, England's all-speed attack could make little impression on it and Australia amassed 601 before they declared with eight wickets down

In reply England scored 190 and 257

Question 1 Who was the England skipper?

Graham Yallop became Australia's tenth captain to send in the other side after winning the toss when he made his decision twice in the 1978-79 series— in the second Test which England won by 166 runs and in the fifth Test which England won by 205 runs

In each of three Australian victories achieved in these circumstances the winning margin was nine wickets

In 1909 at Lord's Monty Noble sent England in, dismissed them for 269 and replied with 350. In their second innings England were all out for 121, Warwick Armstrong taking 6/35, and Australia then made 41 for one

On three occasions Ian Chappell won the toss and sent the opposition in to bat—to lose one match by 62 runs, in Sydney, 1970-71, draw one, in Melbourne, 1974, and win one, by nine wickets, in Perth 1974. Scores in the Perth win were England 208 and 293, Australia 481 and 23 for one

In between the Noble and Chappell nine-wicket wins a Test was won by Australia by the same margin in Melbourne at the conclusion of a series which went to Australia 4-0, recovering the Ashes lost six years earlier

The Australian captain who won the toss and elected to field pointed out later that the pitch was tinged with green and he had four pace bowlers in his side

England scored 205 and 214 to Australia's 351 and 69 for one in the first victory for a captain sending in the other side since J W H T Douglas did it in 1911

Question 2 Who was the successful Australian captain?

One of Australia's four pace bowlers in this match dismissed Trevor Bailey for a duck in each innings to break Clarrie Grimmett's record of 216 Test wickets. The record-breaker continued pace bowling until four months past 38 and lifted his total of Test wickets to 228—a tally later passed by Richie Benaud (248) and Graham McKenzie (246). Bailey was among 14 Englishmen he skittled for 0

As an all-rounder the Australian topped 1,500 runs in Tests and held 26 catches

Question 3 Who was the great fast bowler?

The Test won in Melbourne after the Australian captain's decision to send the other side in followed a Test in Adelaide in which the England skipper made a similar decision—with disastrous results

Down 2-0 in the series, after a drawn third Test, the England captain realised another draw was useless if he were to retain the Ashes his country had held for five years

He sent Australia in— and watched them make 171 before a wicket fell. They went on to 476 and enforced the follow-on when England were dismissed for 240. When England were out for 270 in their second innings, Australia were left with only 35 to make to win the Ashes and with two hours left they accomplished the simple task without losing a wicket

Question 4 Who was the English captain?

One Australian captain, Ian Chappell, three times sent England in after winning the toss. Two of them, Greg Chappell and Graham Yallop did so twice. Two England captains also twice decided they would field after winning the toss

Question 5 Who were they?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Walter Hammond, for Gloucester against Surrey, August 15, 16 and 17 and Worcester August 18, 19 and 20, 1928 at Cheltenham. Describing the first match, Hammond's biographer, Ronald Mason, wrote "He also took one wicket. Only one, which in the chronicles of great all round feats adds up to little enough but this was Jack Hobbs, with his score at 96. I think that is worth underlining."

2 Ian Botham, whose remarkable double was achieved in the second Test against Pakistan in 1978 when England won by an innings and 120 runs—164 to 105 and 139

3 Vinoo Mankad

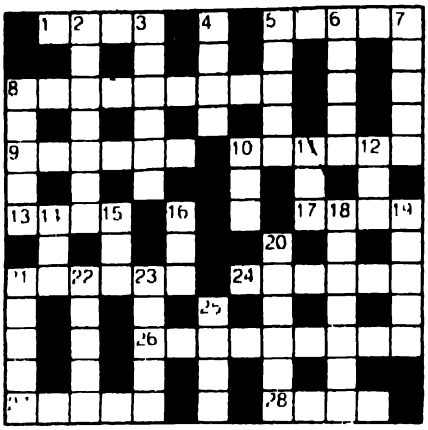
4 W G Grace, 54,896 runs, fifth on the rungetters' list, 2,876 wickets sixth on the bowlers' list, and Wilfred Rhodes, 39,802 runs, 14th on the batting list, and 4,187 wickets, top of the bowlers

5 Colin Cowdrey

Crossword

Jones & O Brien

111



ACROSS

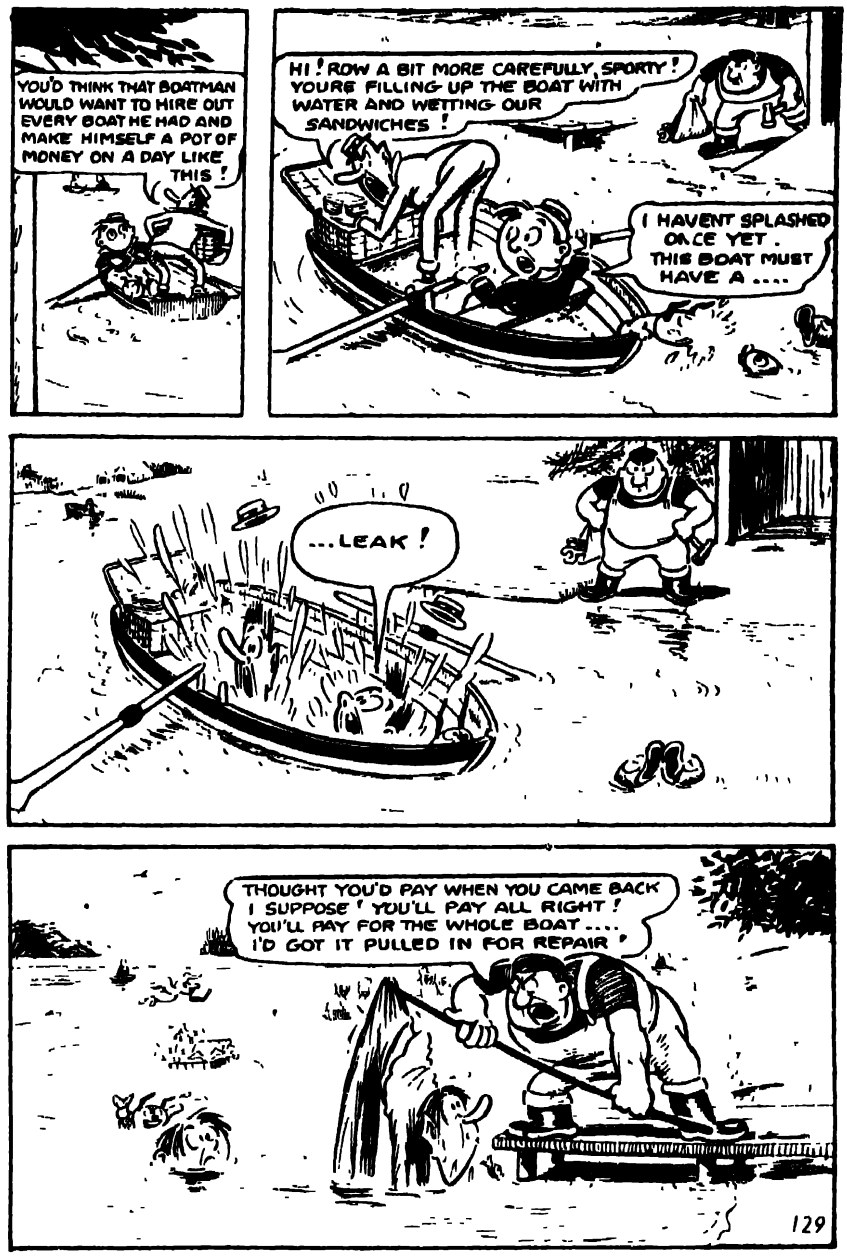
1 A theatrical line in billiards (1,3)
5 Chess player's Christian name begins with Hollywood actress (5)
8 American football supremacy is splendid basin (5,4)
9 U S boxer who held the world welter and middleweight title with inversed initials (4,1,1)
10 Transgression precedes a short laugh for an Indian Karateka (1,5)
13 The first nightwatchman to score a century in Test cricket (4)
17 Geographical charts help hitch-hikers and mountaineers on the way back (4)
21 Batter's unsuccessful attempt to hit pitched ball in baseball (6)
24 Vegetable leaves are golfing grounds (6)
26 The Magpies of English soccer (9)
27 Stars play hockey on this covering of grass (5)
28 "The Fighting Marine's" Christian name (4)

DOWN

2 Skipper (7)
3 This continent has held the Olympic Games for the most number of times (6)
4 Swimmers are at home in this on billiards table (4)
5 Colour of these indicates grades in Judo (5)
6 Gavaskar Jr (5)
7 Ascending, Mohammed Ali—Cassius Clay (5)
8 This half back puts ball into scrummage (5)
10 Vinoo's eldest son initially (1,1,1)
11 Indian Administrative Service (1,1,1)
12 World T T champion's surname (3)
14 Lillee's 'The—of Fast bowling' (3)
15 Resting place finds its way up (3)
16 Not off the bat (3)
18 This English football club's home ground is Deepdale (7)
19 Shergar won here on the way up in 1981 (5)
20 "Kaddubhai" of Indian cricket returns (6)
21 The Board of T T racket has a beatified beginning (5)
22 Undefeated Italian race-horse of the '50s (5)
23 Ancestral stock, starts an ex-Indian hockey International (5)

(Solutions next week)

SPORTY



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 110

	A	B	R	A	H	A	M		D	O	W	N
L		O		B		I		P		N		A
A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A		O		M
V		E		A		T		T				H
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R		P		A				U	N	D	E	R
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X		X		H	O	L	E					D
E				E		E		H		S		E
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E		A		Y		D		L		A		S
R	O	M	E		S	L	A	L	O	M	S	

Question box

N. Baidya, Tinsukia
Q What is the full name of Roger Binny?
A. Roger Michael Binny

P Chakravorty, Calcutta
Q. Who are the ten greatest batsmen of the world according to the runs?
A G S Sobers of West Indies M C

Cowdrey, G Boycott, W R Hammond of England, D G Bradman of Australia, L Hutton, K F Barrington of England, S M Gavaskar of India, R B Kanhai of West Indies and R N Harvey of Australia

Q. Who are the ten all-time greatest bowlers who have taken the maximum wickets?

A. L R Gibbs of West Indies, F S Trueman, D L Underwood of England, B S Bedi of India, J B Statham of England, D K Lillee, R Benaud G D McKenzie of Australia, B S Chandrashekhar of India and A V Bedser of England

Deepak Limbadia, Rajkot

Q. In how many Tests has Clive Lloyd captained West Indies?

A. 46

Quiz

Ranjit Gho

QUESTIONS

State the years in which the following took place

1 The first under-four-minute mile;
2 Bradman's last Test century,
3 Pele's 1000th goal;
4 Framing of the Laws of Football,
5 First-ever tour of the USSR by a football team from India,
6 Highest individual score in Test cricket so far,
7 Muhammad Ali received jail sentence for refusal to join the army;
8. First Indian success in Durand Cup,
9 Cruyff was named Europe's best footballer for the first time;
10. India joins the F I F A

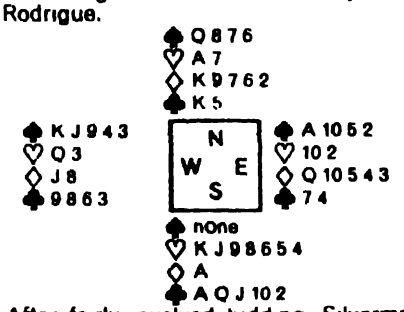
ANSWERS

10. 1948
9 1971
8. 1940
7 1967
6 1958
5 1953
4 1863
3 1969
2 1948
1 1954

Bridge

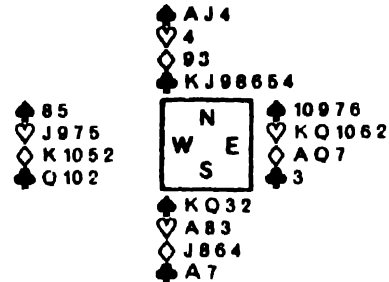
Boris Schapiro

It is odd how the same suit combination can figure twice in the same week. In the British Bridge League International Pairs Competition this deal came up, with the top ranking American pair, Granovetter and Silverman, holding the North-South cards against Britain's Priday and Rodrigue.



After fairly involved bidding, Silverman played the South hand in seven-hearts. After a neutral lead, his problem was to guess the trump situation The Ace produced two low cards and the next trump lead, of course – for it always seems to do so, brought the 10 from East "I don't know what to do!" announced declarer, and spread his cards on the table Everybody sympathised, and eventually South finessed the Jack, to go one off It probably cost the Americans the tournament

Try the dea', from rubber bridge, at 3p a hundred



One no-trump, three no-trumps was the bidding and West led ◇ 2. The defenders took four diamond tricks and switched to a heart South won, cashed four spades (on which West threw two hearts) and followed with Ace and another club A familiar situation – the 10 appeared

This time declarer finessed with confidence. West had shown up with two spades, four diamonds and at least two clubs. If his club was a doubleton, he would have started with five hearts. Why, then, did he lead a diamond?

Conclusion. West had only four hearts, and therefore another club. Moral. don't play in International Pairs, stick to your 3p a hundred game!

Last week's quiz: a reader asked whether the Crowhurst convention had any virtue if you played a weak no-trump and your 1 NT rebid showed 15-16 points Not many - the major advantage of the convention (1 of a suit – 1 of a suit – 1 NT – 2 ♣) is that it allows you tc play a wide range rebid of 1 NT 12-16 points) instead of restricting yourself inflexibly to 15-16.

This week's quiz: how do you show a maximum if partner asks with a Crowhurst 2 ♣?

Chess

Peter Clarke

"From the viewpoint of the chess historian, I was very fortunate in that the accident of my birth made me a contemporary of the three world champions who dominated the chess scene in the first four decades of this century." This quotation comes from *The Adventure of Chess* by Edward Lasker, who died in March at the age of 95 He was a writer of distinction, and his classic book *Schachstrategie*, translated into English as *Chess Strategy* and revised as *Modern Chess Strategy*, will have a permanent place in the literature of the game. His successes in the tournament arena were not spectacular, but they earned him an invitation to one of the greatest events ever held, New York, 1924, where the trio of giants referred to above took the top prizes Here is one of the two wins he managed to register in that high-class contest

White **Edward Lasker**; Black **Richard Reti.** Ruy Lopez (New York, 1924)

1 P – K4, P – K4; 2 Kt – KB3, Kt – QB3
3 B – Kt5, P – QR3; 4 B – R4, Kt – B3
5 0 – 0, B – K2; 6 R – K1, P – QKt4
7 B – Kt2, P – Q3; 8 P – B3, 0 – 0
9 P – KR3, Kt – QR4; 10 B – B2, P – B4
11 P – Q4, Q – B2; 12 QKt – Q2, Kt – Q2
13 P – Q5, P – B4

Black's aim is to weaken the enemy QP, but he is left vulnerable on the white squares.

14 P x P, Kt – Kt3; 15 Kt – K4, B x P
16 Kt(K4) – Kt5, 17 P – KKt4, B x B
Q – Q2;
18 Q x B, P – Kt3; 19 Q – K4, B x Kt
20 Kt x B, Q – QKt2; 21 P – KB4 . . .

This is the right policy the game is to be opened up before the black Knights can return to the centre

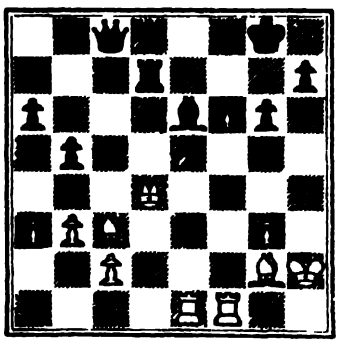
21 . . . Q x P; 22 P x P, QR – K1
23 Q x Qch, Kt x Q; 24 P – K6, R – B3
25 R – Q1, Kt – B2; 26 R x P, P – R3

26 R – K2, according to Alekhine in the official tournament book, was the most stubborn defence Now Black loses the exchange

27 Kt – K4, KR x P; 28 Kt – B6ch, R x Kt
29 R x R, K – Kt2; 30 R – Q6, R – K2
31 P – Kt3, P – B5; 32 B – R3, P x P
33 P x P, Kt x P; 34 R – Kt1, Kt – R4
35 R x RP, Kt x R; 36 B x R, Resigns

Competition G477. Solution next week

Black



White

White to play and win Grade 3 (medium) Prizes of £10 for the first three correct solutions Send yours, on a *postcard*, to Chess Competition G477, *The Sunday Times*, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT, by May 9

Solution to No 476 (Reshevsky – Kashdan, New York, 1942). (2r1n2/pp4bk/q3p2p/4P p1P/ 2rP1B2/2N3R1/P2Q2P1/3R2K1 – White to play.) White's pressure on the K side decided the game as follows 30 R x Bch, K x R, 31 B x Pch, K – R2 (if 31 K – B2, then 32 Q – Kt5 wins), 32 Q – Kt5, R – Q2, 33 B x Kt, R x Kt, 34 Q – Kt6ch, K – R1, 35 Q – K8, R(B6) – B2, 36 B – K7ch, K – Kt2, 37 Q – KB8ch, K – R2, 38 Q – B7ch, with mate next move

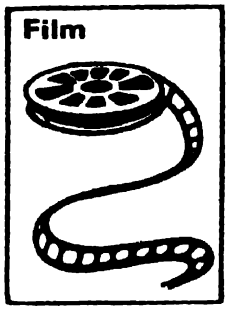
Problem No 1142. Solution next week

G. Heathcote (First Prize, *Revue d'Echecs*, 1904) **(b4b2/2n4/3pr3/8/1K5N/2PR4/Q3p3/ 5kBR – 7 white men; 7 black).** White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1141 (Wurzburg). (8/4n2K/8/ pNp5/rkB4Q/n1p1N3/8/8 – mate in two.) 1 Kt – Q4 (zugzwang) (a)1 . Kt – B4 2 Kt – B6, (b) 1 Kt – Kt8, 2 Kt(Q4) – B2, (c) 1 Kt x B, 2 Kt(K3) – B2, (d) 1 P x Kt 2 Q x Kt, (e) 1 P – B7, 2 Q – K1

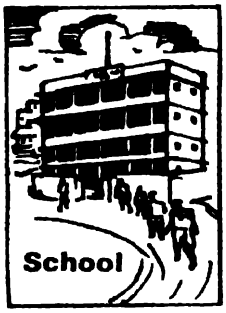
THE KEY

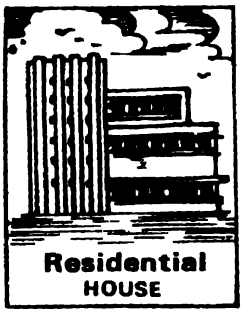
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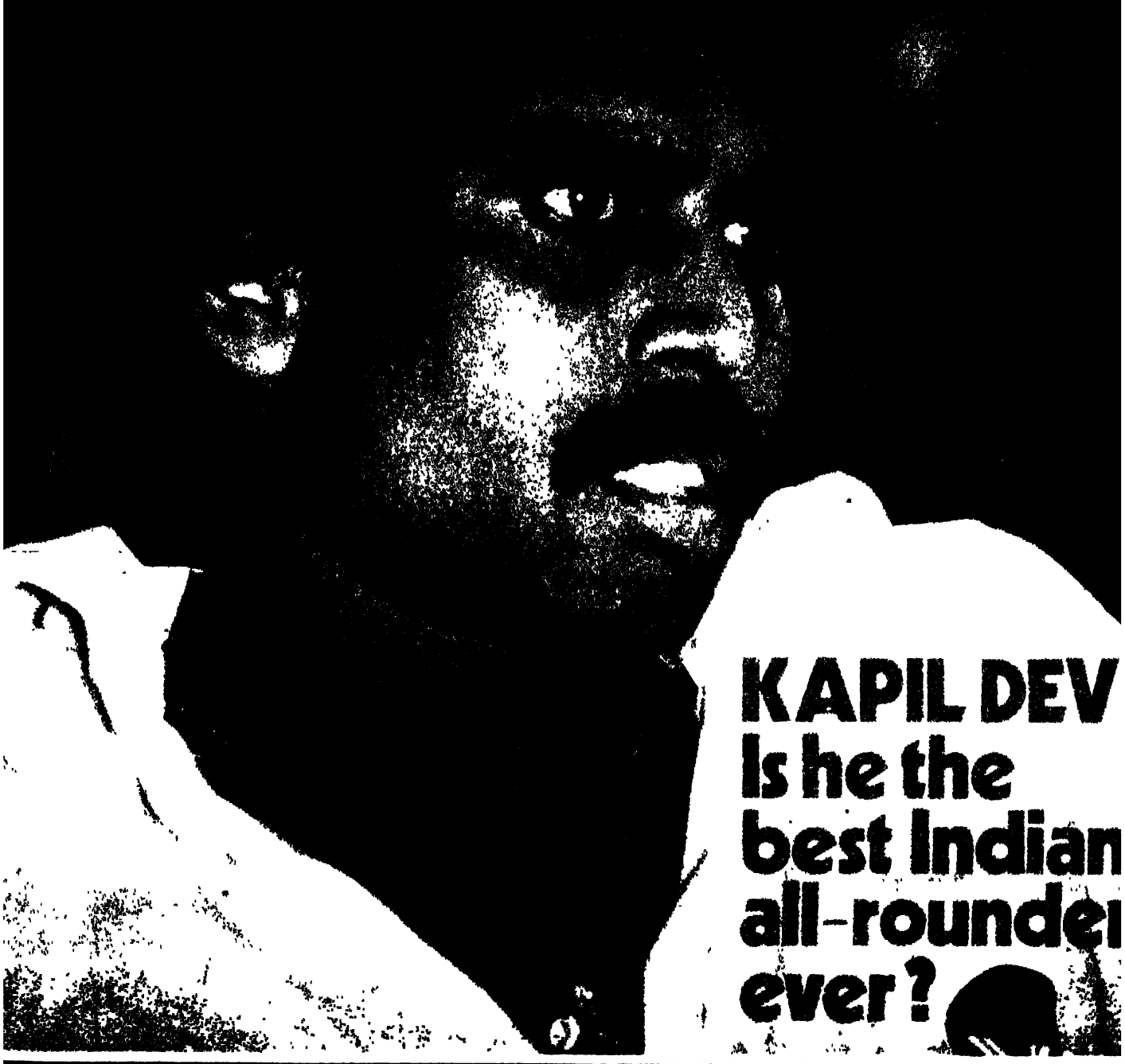


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12 AUGUST 1981

Sportsworld



KAPIL DEV
Is he the best Indian all-rounder ever?

ALLEGATION!

Majid Basker: Santo Mitra has done nothing

ANOTHER ALLEGATION!

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Gum troubles could mean loss of healthy teeth



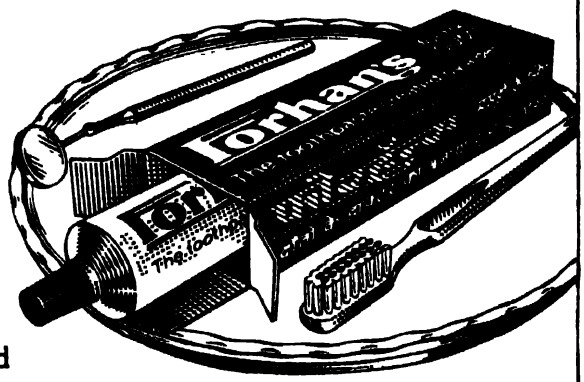
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Sportsworld 12 August 1981

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16 KAPIL DEV SUPERSTAR SUPREME In the winter of 1978-79, a new star burst on the international cricket scene—and the world of cricket has never been quite the same thereafter ASHIS RAY reconstructs the rise of Kapil Dev Nikhanj

24 EAST BENGAL CONTROVERSY Yet again, East Bengal Club is rocked with a controversy Majid Basker, the star Iranian has charged coach Santo Mitra with callousness and disinterest Mitra, in turn, accuses the Iranians of taking no interest whatever in the team SARAJIT DEB reports



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Letters to the Editor

Incredible

MY heartiest congratulations to Ian Botham and Bob Willis for their magnificent performances which steered England to an incredible victory in the recently concluded Leeds Test This victory should lift the sagging morale of the English cricketers who have been constantly battered by the hostile pace attack of Australia Ian Botham played a marvellous innings of 149 not out to pave the way for an English victory

Willis bowled magnificently to rout Australia for 111 which revived the memories of the devastating spell of Kapil Dev at Melbourne not long ago when he shattered Australia for 89 Bravo Botham, bravo Willis

M GOUTAM PRAKASH KHARIWAL,
Bangalore

INCREDIBLE is the word to describe England's win over Australia in the Leeds Test Botham and Willis were undoubtedly the architects of England's victory But the man who strikes me most is Mike Brearley He has the capacity to influence his players and bring out the best in them.

N KRISHNAMURTHY,
New Delhi

KUDOS to Ian Botham for his superb performance against the Aussies in the Leeds Test The critics have been unnecessarily harsh on Botham True, he did not perform well, as expected of him, after the Golden Jubilee Test match against India But every player undergoes a lean patch sometimes, and Botham is no exception to this Botham was, in fact, staggering under the burden of captaincy

The performance of Ian Botham in the Leeds Test has once again proved that he is the greatest all-rounder today, and it is unjust to compare Kapil with Botham

SMITA NARANG,
New Delhi

OH CRICKET! Lovely Cricket! What a fantastic example of glorious uncertainty it was at the Leeds! The Leeds Test has provided a fresh lease of life to the current series. Skipper Botham put his side one down in the series, but the all-rounder Botham has wiped out that deficit with the kind of performance that is seen once in a blue moon Also, there was a heroic and historic performance by Bob Willis Brearley has kept his reputation as an astute captain intact

JAYANTA NANDI ROY,
Gauhati

Records and records

RARELY has a Test been marked by so many records and milestones as the recently concluded Leeds Test between England and Australia (i) John Dyson hit his maiden Test century in the 1st innings (ii) Rodney Marsh claimed his 264th Test victim, thus breaking Alan Knott's previous world record of 263 victims (iii) Bob Taylor's 1,271st first class victim in his career broke John Murray's previous record (iv) Bob Willis' 8 for 43 was his career-best figures This was also the best bowling performance against Australia at Leeds (v) By dismissing Willey in the 2nd innings, Lillee claimed his 142nd wicket against England This bettered Hugh Trumble's tally of 141 wickets (vi) Ian Botham's 149 n o in the 2nd innings was his highest score in Test cricket (vii) Ian Botham's six wickets in the 1st innings and 50 and 149 n o made him the first player in the history of Test cricket to take five wickets or more in an innings and score a century and a half century in the same Test (viii) Botham also became the first English cricketer to take five or more wickets in an innings and also score a century in the same Test against Australia (ix) No country has won a Test after conceding as many as 227 runs in the first innings (x) It was the first time in this century and only the second time in Test history that a country won a Test match after following on (this was done by England for the first time against the Aussies at Sydney in 1894-95)

GUL-FRAAZ EZEKIEL,
Madras

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Queen again

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Evert Lloyd on her thrashing 6-2, 6-2 victory over Hana Mandlikova in women's singles final in this year's Wimbledon. The entire final was dominated by Mrs Lloyd except when the young Mandlikova seemed to be on top in the initial period when after clinching the opening game, she led 40-30 in the second game of the first set. Thereafter, Chris applied heavy pressure which Mandlikova could not withstand Chris, I think, was nervous in the first game, although she came into her own immediately afterwards and never looked back She was seldom tested at net and more or less the whole final was confined to the baseline only.

Hana could not show her true form, which helped her in the Australian and French Opens this year, and succumbed to Evert's superb baseline shots. However, the few occasions when glimpses of her talent were revealed, were in the 1st, 6th and 7th games of the 2nd set Hana was also erratic in her service and seemed to have forgotten the importance of a good service at critical moments On the contrary, Chris served steadily though not always accurately. Further, Chris had several years' experience of playing in the Wimbledon finals.

Better luck for the Grand Slam next time, Hana Hats off to Chris Evert Lloyd for becoming three-time champion

K G RAMANI,
New Delhi

Shameful conduct

THE Press reports of the arrest of five athletes undergoing training in the second phase of the all-India preparatory camp at Bangalore are indeed shocking. If the charges are true, July 15 marks the most inauspicious day in Indian sport

Of late, indiscipline has been plaguing every aspect of Indian sports This malady of Indian sport should be cured and the evil nipped in the bud. Whatever may be a player's track record, his misbehaviour puts him away from the nomenclature "sportsman". A sportsman should necessarily be true to the sacred word both by the letter and spirit.

The indisciplined players have a lot to learn from Vijay Amritraj, the man who is often described as the "Indian Ambassador". His gentle behaviour on and off the court has made him extremely popular with millions of people all over the world It was mainly his immaculate behaviour that influenced the former US President Carter's Adviser, Jordon, to invite Vijay to the White House. Also, the news that touched our hearts was the revelation of Vijay in your June 17 issue, the personal invitation he received from James Callaghan to attend the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London.

Hats off to you, Vijay! The nation is proud of you You are the ideal Indian Ambassador abroad

P S MONY,
Trivandrum

Shame, shame!

CHUNI GOSWAMI's reports on the football matches in Calcutta are not impartial, nor are they objectively written This is even more noticeable regarding a match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal. May I ask himwhy he does not make any adverse comments about Mohun Bagan? Whenever Mohun Bagan loses a match he either says the players are injured or blames the ground conditions, but never do we find him criticising the players of Mohun Bagan for inept performances We do not expect such partial and one-sided views from a legendary figure like Chuni Goswami.

On the other hand. the reports of P. K. Banerjee. the ex-Indian captain and contemporary of Goswami, are most objectively written. Being closely associated with both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, P.K. neither fully supports them nor passes any judgment unfavourable to either of these club.

Finally, Mr Goswami, how do you bet on the I. F. A. Shield? I favour East Bengal.

PRABAL GUHA,
Assam.

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

FEET AND DUST

London: An English subject complains in their national daily that the city's dustcarts are driven as though their drivers were taking part in the Monte Carlo rally As a consequence old ladies have to run up streets carrying their bins in pursuit of the speedy dustmen! And we thought only the B E S T drivers did that

WHO'S TIGHT?

Quote: Liverpool Manager talking after team's historic but stolid victory in the European Cup. "The only way we're going to open up the game is to reduce teams to 10 a side, to create more space on the soccer field It's become impossibly tight out there "

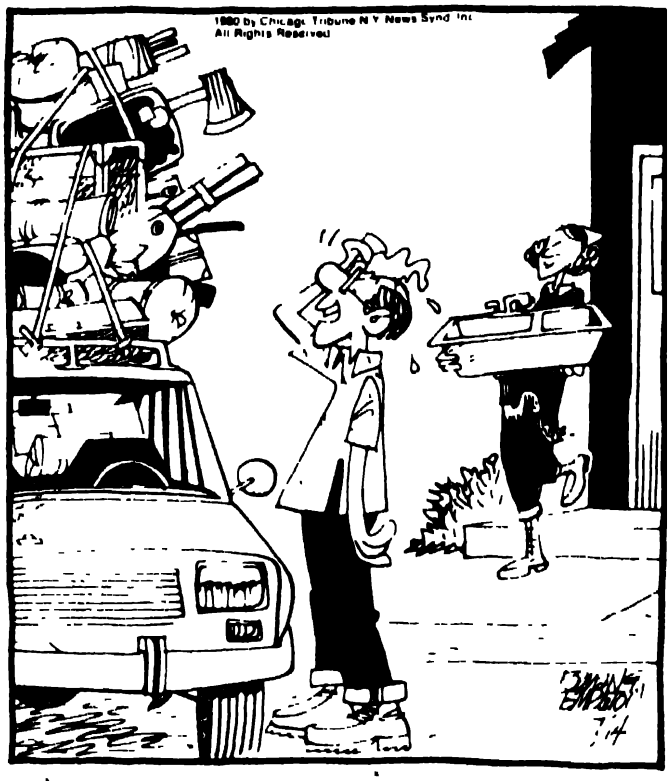
NO HOG-GING THE LIMELIGHT

London: If you aspire to be a tennis player you better leave your animal instincts at home And you better not model yourself on McEnroe, Connors or Nastase After all this game's supposed to be a blessing not a curse As such, the English Lawn Tennis Association has advised British umpires to penalize players who "curse, grunt and groan" in major tournaments, including Wimbledon Such behaviour distracts players and may simply take them from the play court to the pay court

HORSE LAUGH

Hampshire: it was a great day—for the bride, that is But what about the groom? While the former was engaged in reciting her vows in the register office, the latter's attention was otherwise engaged He had a mini transistor glued to an ear and was engrossed in listening to the commentary of the English Derby!

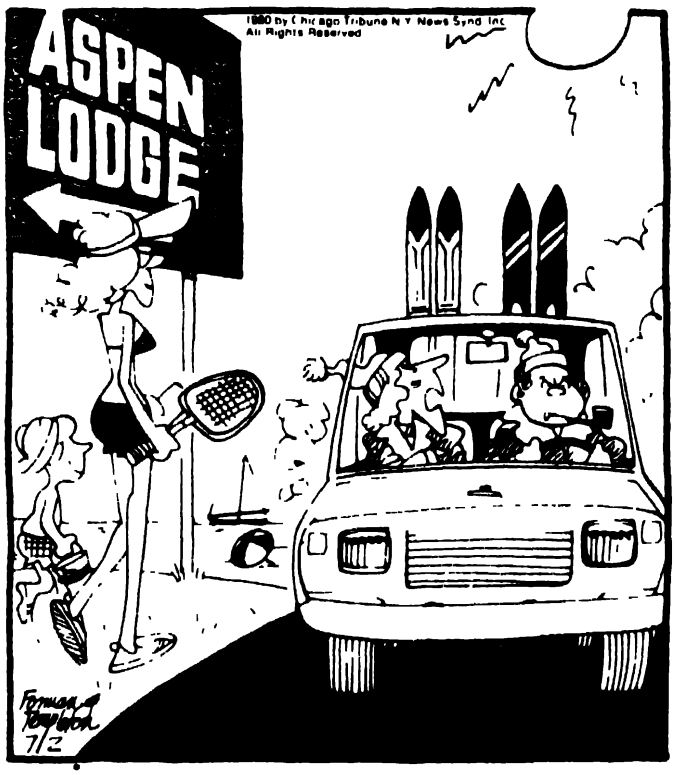
B TELLIS



"WELL, AGNES... IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING ON HERE BUT THE .. "



"UNTIL SEPTEMBER."



"YOU AND YOUR SHORTCUTS!"

Sportsworld Special

Life on the 1982 circuit

Abuse. Obscene gestures. Questioning of line calls. Umpire-baiting. They are all an integral part of the professional tennis circuit now. Gone are the days of chivalry. Every point made means a dollar in the bank. Though officials are cracking down hard on errant players, there is still plenty happening that isn't exactly tennis. What follows is an attempt to visualise how a novice might describe life on the tour next year.

January 1
Dear Dad,
I played the first match of my professional career today, against Fritz Buehning. I wonder if you remember him? He's the big tall guy who never combs his hair and who was fined at Wimbledon last year for asking an umpire something about his parents.

I lost, but I learnt something about the use of adjectives on the court. Buehning certainly has a quaint turn of phrase, but I did notice the paint on the umpire's chair getting blistered. Come to think of it, the umpire turned a couple of shades pinker than normal.

I'm in a bit of a hurry now, because I have to look up a lot of words in the dictionary. I heard Buehning using them and I noticed that everyone looked the other way whenever he did so. I wonder what language he was using.

* * * *

February 17
Dear Dad,
Here I am in California, as you can see from the postcard.
I still haven't won a match on the circuit yet, but I hear that there is some sort of prize for the best loser at the end of it all. Maybe they have a rookies' tournament, just like they have the Masters. Who knows? I might turn out to be rookie of the year.
I saw Nastase playing McEnroe yesterday in the semi-finals. They televised the whole match but I'm told that a number of portions had to be censored. Nastase behaved like a perfect gentleman, by today's standards. He only called the umpire an idiot on two occasions.

Oh, yes, he did approach a linesman at one stage, but I don't know what he meant. Maybe you'll understand if I tell you. It all happened when Nastase thought the ball was in and the linesman thought it was out. Nastase didn't say a word although we were waiting anxiously to see what he would do.
He just went and borrowed a pair of dark glasses from a punk rocker sitting on the sidelines. Then he went to an old gentleman sitting at the courtside and asked for his walking stick. Then he went back to the linesman and with a broad smile on his face, he removed the linesman's glasses and put the dark glasses on him instead. Then he put the walking stick in the linesman's right hand and returned to the baseline to continue the game.

This had everyone laughing and holding their sides but I must admit I didn't see the humour in it. Do explain it to me if you see the joke.
I'll be waiting for your letter.

* * * *

April 3
Dear Dad,
A couple of days ago I played Peter Fleming in the first round of the Open but maybe you've already read about the results, so I won't waste time spelling "annihilation."
Fleming broke a racket in disgust after I won my first point (that was in the second set) and the umpire fined him five hundred dollars on the spot for what he called unbecoming behaviour.

Fleming asked "Becoming what?" and got fined another two-fifty for querying an umpire's judgment.
Bye for now.

* * * *

May 21
Dear Dad,
I still haven't won a game on the circuit yet (yawn) but I guess even Borg took a couple of years to become a champion. Or perhaps it's just that I'm the shy, retiring type and I don't have the killer instinct like that Indian player they're always talking about. Perhaps I should have stuck to my ballet lessons.
I was fined today, but I swear I didn't mean it. I was calling myself a dirty word and the umpire thought I was talking to him.
He asked me what I had said so I told him, thinking he was probably a bit hard of hearing. The crowd thought it was great fun and the next thing I knew I had to pay a fine. To make matters worse, I have been hauled up by the people who run the tour and they have given me my first warning.
I am very worried. Do you think I should contact a lawyer?

* * * *

June 15
Dear Dad,
I'm wondering whether I will be able to play at Wimbledon this year. Perhaps they will let me play the qualifying tournament. The only problem is, you have to be ranked above 300 in the world and I don't think there is anyone lower than me on the ATP computer at the moment.
Do you think I should find out whether they have a qualifying tournament for the qualifying tournament?

* * * *

August 13
Dear Dad,
Well, I didn't make it to Wimbledon, as you must know by now.
The reason you haven't been reading much about me in the newspapers is that I've been banned for playing for two months. I raised my eyebrow, querying a lineswoman's call in Britain and the papers called it "gross insubordination." The tournament committee suspended me for 60 days.
Actually, it wasn't raising my eyebrow that caused the trouble. It was what I said before that, but I can't repeat it or the letter won't get past the censors. I'm beginning to wonder if I should give up the circuit.

* * * *

October 27
Dear Dad,
McEnroe told me today that I was coming along nicely. I wonder what he means. Does he mean my tennis is improving or does he mean that I'm almost as good an umpire-baiter as he is?
We're thinking of forming an association, Dad. McEnroe, Buehning, Nastase and (sorry, Dad) yours truly. We are fed up with the way the Press vilifies us. We can't stand the way tournament officials try and bully us.
We refuse to be cowed down by anyone any longer. We have taken enough. Now is the time to revolt.
That reminds me. We call ourselves the "Revolting Pros Association." People are saying snide things about the word "revolting" being an adjective and not a verb. McEnroe's father, a lawyer, is going to be our patron. We want you to be our treasurer.
Do reply fast.

* * * *

November 7
Dear Dad,
Thanks for your letter letting me know that you have legally disowned me.

My most memorable moments

GURBACHAN SINGH RANDHAWA

GURBACHAN SINGH RANDHAWA became the first sportsman to receive the Arjuna Award in 1961, the year of its institution. In a distinguished career, Gurbachan held two Commonwealth records in the decathlon and 110 m hurdles. The athlete was also the recipient of the Home Minister's gold medal during the period 1960-1966. Many in the athletics fraternity still believe that with a little more financial support Gurbachan could have fared better than a fifth place in the Olympics. On the other hand, the athlete himself looks back without a twinge of regret.

The finest athlete the country has produced so far is now a Deputy Commandant in the CRPF.

EVERY moment of my athletic career is a memorable one for me. Victories and defeats came alike and I did my best with whatever I had.

If achievement is to be the criterion for my most memorable moment then the Tokyo Olympics gain prominence. Although I was not expected to survive the heats I finished fifth in the 110 metres hurdles. I still remember Ghulam Raziq, the Commonwealth champion, was of the view that we were wasting our time by going through the preliminaries.

Ghulam Raziq was to be proved wrong as I survived an early set back by just scraping through to the semi-finals by virtue of being the fastest loser. Running on a soaked and heavy track many distinguished stars made their exit, a German with 13.3 seconds to his credit being one of them. Somehow I clocked 13.97 seconds and found a berth in the finals. Running last till the fifth hurdle and seventh till the tenth hurdle a last second surge got me a fifth place in the finals.

Today if I sit back and review my competitive years then 1960 was the launching pad of my athletic career. Competing in the men's section for the first time, I amassed 5973 points to create a new national decathlon record on my way to selection for the camp at Mount Abu. As fate would have it, instead of attaining the qualifying mark in the decathlon I found a berth on the Rome bound plane as a high jumper. My jump of 2.02 m was 2 cm above the qualifying mark.

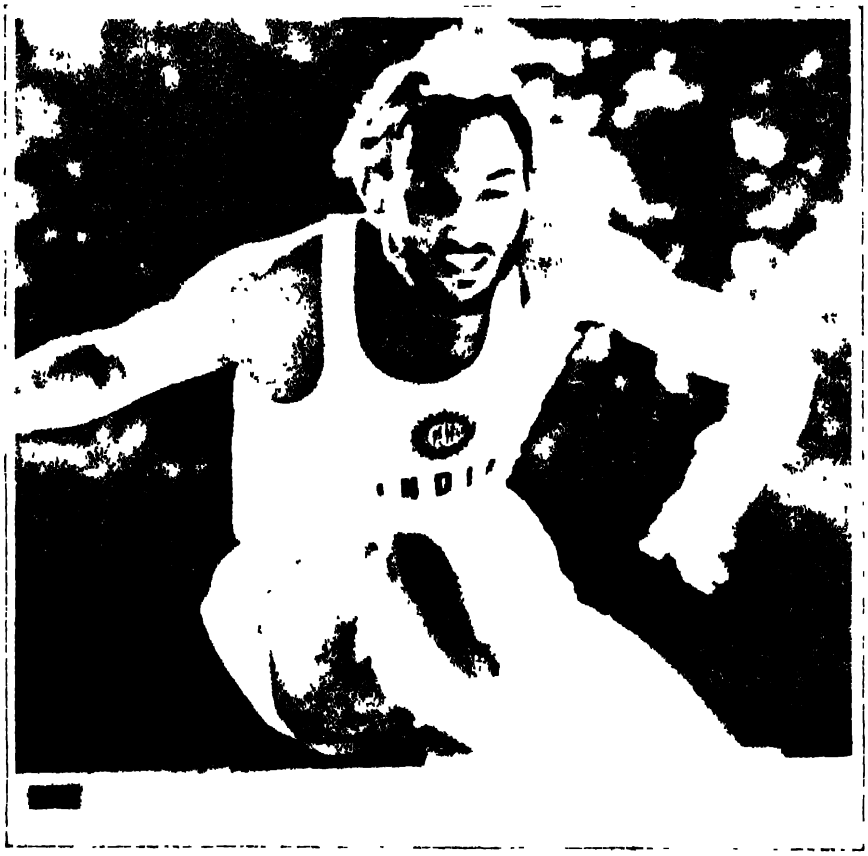
International acclaim came two years later, as I posted a new record by tallying 6,912 points in the Asian Games. My performance could have been much better but for an elbow injury which almost caused me to withdraw after the third event. Only Mr. Joginder Singh Saini's coaxing persuaded me to continue and in the process I clocked a remarkable 48.4 seconds in the 400 m. This was one of the few races which was to give birth to the speculations that I could have been a better 400 m hurdler than 110 m hurdler as I lacked speed.

After the Asiad victory along with Mubarak Shah, I was invited to compete in an international meet in Uganda. Rubbing shoulders with the best in the world, I leapt past all the hurdles to finish second in 14.4 seconds. This meet not only boosted my morale but also provided me with vital racing practice prior to the Commonwealth Games. I was in great form for the Games but the Chinese aggression in 1962 deprived me of my best competing opportunity.

Observing the present conditions I must consider myself lucky for having got all those racing opportunities prior to the Olympics. On a tour of West Germany, Holland and Switzerland I was victorious in eight of my nine outings and had a tour best of 14.1 seconds.

After the Tokyo Olympiad I managed another notable victory by outpacing my German rival who had 13.7 seconds to his credit in the Indo-German 'Test' at Patiala. There was some confusion among the time-keepers, as two watches showed 13.7 seconds and 13.8 seconds, respectively. Since no one could believe the timing they stuck with the third one which showed 14.0 seconds. Even the great Dr. Otto Peltzer's clock showed 13.8 seconds and he believed it.

With my best years behind me and no incentives left, retirement was an obvious choice in 1966. Not even the surprise packet of two scrolls certifying that I had created two Commonwealth records in the decathlon (1962 Asiad) and 110 m hurdles (Tokyo Olympiad 1964) could revive my spirits and I quit.



As told to TOKI SHARMA

Sportsworld Exclusive

In the beginning, there was darkness.....

And, says MARIO CABRAL E SA, reporting on the development of sport in Goa, there is still nothing much to cheer about. Except football, of course

THE death of the Cooperage ground at Bombay is, weirdly but truly, the best evidence of the vitality, technique, appeal and popularity of Goan football A whole stand collapsed under the weight of an over-enthusiastic crowd rooting for Salgaocar (a top Goan team) during a Rovers Cup engagement

Goa and Bengal have come to be the main attractions at the football Nationals, with Bengal, often enough, cast in the none-too-heroic role of a Goliath, brawnier rather than brainier at times.

The Goan women's football team, however, won the National title in 1979 and were runners-up in 1980 and 1981, two years in a row Goans have come a long way from the days of barefoot games in freshly harvested paddy fields and a ball made of rice husks stuffed in old and discarded socks Or for that matter, from volleyball played on cowdung-plastered floors with an inflated pig's bladder.

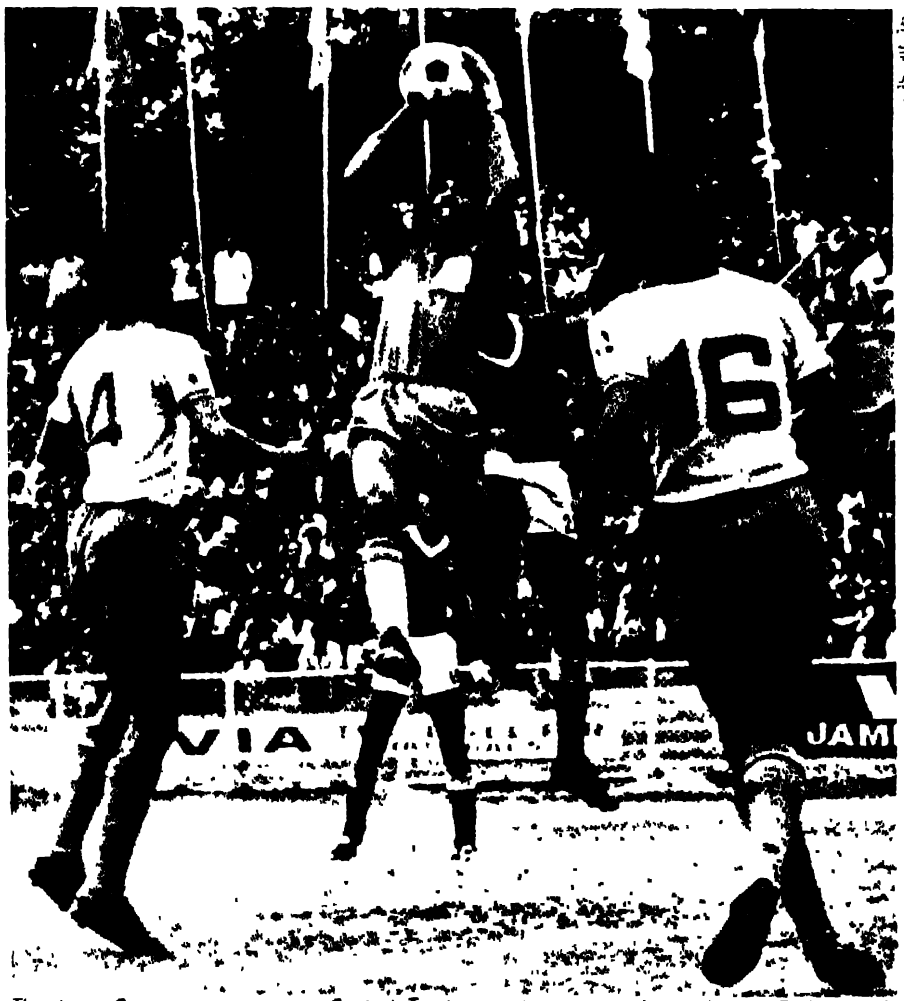
Goan raconteurs—and there is no dearth of them in chatty care-free Goa—will tell you how JRD (JRD Tata himself) would make his rounds of the dingy and grimy hovels of Dhobi Talao in Bombay, hunting for fresh arrivals from Goa, footballers, pole vaulters and cricketers, for his company's sports clubs. Much of it, of course, is plain fabrication JRD's biographers have never, at least thus far, projected this particular consuming passion of the great entrepreneur. The fact, however, is that hundreds of Goans played for Tata's and headed, kicked, dribbled and long jumped their way through the company's cadres thanks to no particular ability other than their friendly sportiveness

At one time, six Goans were in the Indian Olympic team—and those were the days when to capture a gold at the Olympics was no act of God, as now

It was an achievement of MEN—yes, in capitals.

Those also, were the days when half a dozen, or more, Goans held national or regional track records—and two of them, both Pintos, bid fair, one from India and the other from Kenya, for world honours at two different Olympiads.

As for football, half of Maharashtra's side has nearly always consisted of "original" Goans And ironically enough, a third of Goa's State team has been made up, over the last decade or so, with Keralian "pros" re-



The closest Goa came to winning the Santosh Trophy was at the Srinagar Nationals. Here Brahmananda collects the ball in the final against Benga'

Landmarks Of Goan Football

1883 Fr. Lyons referees the first football match in Goa at Arpora grounds. The teams were allowed to interchange players!

1908 'Britons' Vs Margao—the British won 1 0.

1918 British officers and Sergeants Vs Portuguese Officers and Sergeants (reportedly, the Portuguese promoted a couple of corporals to strengthen the team) The Portuguese won. The Governor General and his entourage were present throughout the match. Ladies and gents dressed most formally Police band in attendance. The winners were kissed and hugged by men and women There was a fantastic fireworks display at the end of the match.

1959 Major Faustino Duarte, a former Portuguese international footballer, for the first time "organises" football and other sport activities in Goa, on modern and scientific lines.

1960 (A year before Goa's liberation) Benfica visited Goa. Their match with the "natives of Goa" ended with a 4-0 drubbing of the latter

1962 Goa, now liberated, merges in the national mainstream



Some of the players of the Dempo Sports Club with the Rovers Cup they won in 1978

cruited by Goa's prestige football teams

From all accounts, Goans at school level were introduced to football by a certain Fr Robert Lyons—a most fascinating man He was not a Father, to begin with A lay brother, from Mangalore, he came to Goa, at the turn of the century, lured by the tales of a miraculous spring which rid men of all disease

Brother Lyons suffered from leprosy—and the spring washed him clean He settled down, near it, at Arpora, a village about 25 kms from Panaji, the capital city of Goa There in, he founded an English school, the first in Goa, levelled a paddy field, the first playground in Goa, and taught his wards football, cricket, hockey and athletics A strict disciplinarian who never spared the rod—there were several bamboo groves by the school ground—he gave his boys what most Goans lacked: a goal in life

And, thus, armed with Fr Lyons English and sports training, they boarded a train to Bombay, to gritty Dhobi Talao, where, going by fiction, JRD prowled on the lookout for them—and AFS Talyarkan spun his yarns about them, in the then still nascent craft of radio reportage.

THEN came World War II, German and Italian ships (the future real-life cast of *"The Boarding Party"*) and the bored sailors went about Baina, the red light area of the Port town of Vasco da Gama, playing (and teaching local urchins to play) European football.

On the other hand, working on the sure premise that only idle minds indulge in politics, the then Portuguese dictator Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, ordered that football be given a new impetus. They had a football to kick around and an exciting game to bother their dictator for 40 long years

By remote control, that is what happened in Goa, too And Fr Lyons' notions, that he who kicked hardest and highest played best, made way first for the 2-3 5, the WM, the 4-2-4, and for a brief while the rather crazy 3-1-6 Goa never looked back after that Clubs like Dempo, Salgaocar, Vasco, Sesa have figured in the finals of—and often enough won—the most important national tournaments

Cricket, hockey and athletics seem to be yet undeveloped Hockey is ridden with politics And athletics, being incompatible with easy ways, of which Goans are very fond are, sadly, a bald patch of grey Timothy Spadigam, the President of the Goa Athletic Association, says with all the regret of a stern drill master, "There is no outstanding material" Spadigam ought to know what he is talking about—a Coorgi from an old family converted to Christianity by German Lutherans, tall, massive and still nursing a broken neck (from a horse fall), Timothy has trained at the Police Academy at Mount Abu with "nearly all the IGPs, and below" now serving in India.

The fact is that facilities for athletes are almost non-existent. Arrangements for jumping events are hopelessly primitive and the less written the better about the poor state of the grounds for the meets The Goa Amateur Athletic Association has a membership of 25 colleges and institutions It is to a great extent being sustained with the help of the grants from the State Council of Sports

Goa was represented for the first time in the tenth All-India Open Meet at Madras in 1971 and has since then been a regular, if very poor, competitor in such meets Topping the roll of honour is Elma D'Cunha, who, in the very first year of Goa's participation in won the second place and the silver medal in javelin Odette Mendes won a bronze in the hurdles In the Prasanna Kumar Memorial Open Meet at Bangalore in 1973, Daniel Colaco won the second place in the 100 metres Elma and Daniel also won the Jivaji Dadabhai Kerkar Awards

PATHETICALLY, in games like badminton— a Goan, Vijay Madgaokar was the National Champion in the Forties—politics and dirty games have dulled the prospects of a fairly large, in relative terms to Goa's size, number of keen young men and women who have the right instincts, enormous potential but, at present little guidance worth the name So seems to be the case in other fields - like volleyball and cricket

And even a game like tennis in which the famous, and still wealthy, Sequeira brothers, Jack and Frank won outstanding honours, is all but dead At the pompous *"Clube de Tenis de Gaspar Dias"*, an elitist joint where Portuguese officers once made passes between sets at porcelain-faced damsels, while Mamas played bridge, sipped high tea and kept an eye on the proceedings, the only game now played is rummy at a Rs 2 a point There is a Rs. 50 side bet on the best three first cards, a Rs 100 side bet on the best three last cards (take home, or leave it there) and Rs 2000 or more per playing "day", often enough a marathon extending over two days and three nights

New games have come into being—like hututu and kabaddi, delightfully *deshi*, but where Goans with their East-West hangups, stand little chance, ignorant as they still are of the validity of such techniques as catch as catch-can or of such eminently useful tactics of grabbing an adversary by his hair .

BENSON & HEDGES CUP FINAL

Richards pulls it off

ASHIS RAY reports

HE did it in the Prudential Cup final in 1979, in the Gillette Cup final the same season and in the Test matches last year. Now again, in the 1981 Benson and Hedges Cup final, he produced yet another thundering century.

Said the hero of the day, Antiguan Vivian Richards "I always dreamt about coming out through those white gates and getting a hundred at Lord's. Things haven't changed. I still feel the same motivation"

Yes, a major contribution from Richards on July 25 was as certain as such accumulation can be in this game of great unpredictability. At five for two, Sylvester Clarke, looking as quick as anybody in the world, had removed Peter Denning and then greeted Peter Roebuck with a bouncer, which the bespectacled man knew nothing about. After that, he proceeded to test Richards with a couple of really nasty fliers, but the maestro weathered the storm, and went on to wreak havoc on the other bowlers to finally compile his runs off 128 balls.

His investment in a third wicket stand of 105 with Roebuck, his best friend, was 80, and although Ian Botham later lived up to his Headingley heroics with a swift 37, the person to hit the headlines and the winning stroke—a lofted drive to midwicket for four—was this 29-year-old West Indian.

And Jim Laker, now thankfully recovered from a recent heart operation, presented him with the gold award, symbol of Man of the Match. Indeed, those who argue that a portion of Richards' success stems from his playing for the West Indies—a star-



Viv Richards in action against Surrey—yet another awesome innings

studded unit if there ever was one—were left with fewer debating points as he had walked into a crisis, made light of it, and with the most ferocious onslaught on the leg boundary, emerged the complete master of the situation

Anything short was hooked or pulled fiercely, anything overpitched was driven or flicked with power and elegance, and even good length deliveries were sent blazing through the square-leg or midwicket region

He blended all this with a most delicate exhibition of late cutting—one such stroke to third man for a single heralding his hundred.

Thus, not by any manner or means was it a gripping contest or a nailbiting finish Richards' performance put paid to that Indeed, the only tense moment of the day was when Somerset lost their second wicket with just five runs on the board, but with Richards stamping out his authority from there onwards, the match veritably returned to its one-sidedness

The breaks had gone Somerset's way from the very beginning, with Brian Rose winning the toss and putting Surrey in on a slightly moist wicket Subsequently, with Garner and Botham, particularly the former, bowling an immaculate opening spell, only four runs came off the first six overs. At this stage, Jack Richards, the wicketkeeper playing the role of a makeshift opener, had his stumps uprooted by the 'Big Bird'

So, the struggle continued for the South London club With Garner at his most accurate and threatening to run amuck, it was fortunate for Surrey that the left hander Roger Knight conjured a captain's innings of 92 But ultimately, the skipper got an inside edge onto his pads, and the ball ricocheted to gully for the burly wicket keeper Derek Taylor to take a smart catch A slightly uncommon dismissal, but it added up Garner rounding off the day with the sensational figures of 11 5 14 5

In the process, Surrey were pegged down to 194 for eight in their 55 overs. "This was 20 runs too short", Knight, a candidate for the England captaincy in India, later commented, adding, "But with Viv in such tremendous form, even 60 more would have been too short" A valid remark since Somerset coasted to their target with ten and a half overs still to spare But despite the favourable conditions, Garner's was an extraordinary showing—th best-ever bowling display in a Benso and Hedges final, just as much Richards' was the highest score, an indeed, only the second hundred in th ultimate stage of this tournament

All the same, Knight's e perimenting with the batting orde could have been reserved for a les crucial occasion In the absence of th experienced Alan Butcher, to sen Richards to open the innings repre sented a folly, as did the demotion o the seasoned Graham Roope to num ber eight The last mentioned came i after even Clarke, while the young an comparatively untested Monty Lync took his place at number five

But Somerset were the favourites and they lived up to the people's faith and the trust of the thousands who made the journey to the 'Mecca' from the west country It was an exodus worth the effort, and one man had travelled an even greater distance—from Bombay to be precise to enjoy the conquest The satisfaction Sunil Gavaskar could not savour in Somerset's colours last year, he imbibed as a spectator this time and appeared to be as thrilled as anyone in the public galleries



Botham dives in vain, to catch Surrey's New Zealand opener Geoff Howarth

ICC MEETING

South Africa still out in the cold

ARIJIT SEN and ASHIS RAY report from London

THE 1981 International Cricket Conference meeting, at Lord's, will certainly go down as one of the most significant in recent times It marked the long anticipated entry of Sri Lanka into the fold, and no less important, slammed the door on South Africa's face for a seemingly indefinite period.

The upgrading of Sri Lanka has been on the cards for several years The main objection to this "promotion" was that this country has not been in a position to offer more than two Test venues to visiting teams, which somewhat defeated the objective of reciprocity The circumstances have not changed, but two recent developments have influenced the six member nations, namely, England, Australia, West Indies, New Zealand, India and Pakistan, to take a different view of the matter, and as a result, the admission was unanimously approved.

The favourable points were, first, Australia's good impressions of the Sri Lankans, based on their recent tour, and then, the opinion formed here in England, where Bandula Warnapura's team is currently on a trip, was also sympathetic. In fact, it was while playing Yorkshire at Sheffield that the tourists were conveyed the happy news of their elevation, and not surprisingly, the revelry which followed matched anything that transpired at Colombo and Kandy

India and Pakistan have for long propagated Sri Lanka's full membership of the ICC And once Australia's attitude became known, the acceptance of this year's application became a mere formality, since no country wished to be labelled as obstructive in any way Thus, England's scheduled visit to Sri Lanka after touring India this winter will, in all likelihood, include an official Test, the details of which are expected to be finalised shortly

On the other hand, South Africa's renewed bid for a restoration of their membership was a non-starter, given the background of the Jackman Affair and the Springbok's Rugby tour of New Zealand. Today, more than before, the worldwide demand for sanctions against South Africa is insisting on plugging every 'sporting' loophole, with a United Nations-blessed ban on individuals providing the slightest encouragement to apartheid not ruled out But England, Australia and New Zealand voted in favour of South Africa's recall, which was rejected by the West Indies, India and Pakistan, and this "deadlock" could well become a majority ballot against any immediate consideration in future with Sri Lanka siding with the non-white nations Of course, the ICC in its present composition did resolve that "Every encouragement should be given to the continued development of multi-racial cricket in South Africa"

The Secretary of ICC, Mr Jack Bailey, commented "In view of world political opinion, cricket opinion, and the realities of the situation as they existed, nothing more than that could be done to encourage South Africa "

Interestingly enough, on an issue not unconnected with the South African question, the Conference "deplored" any move to take retaliatory action on the basis of the doings of other autonomous bodies, which was an obvious reference to the threat now faced by New Zealand regarding their tour of the West Indies, arising from the Springbok's visit

Another resolution stated that "All member countries of ICC agree that the selection of teams is entirely a matter for the governing bodies concerned. The barring of individuals for political reasons by other Governments or Government Bodies cannot be allowed to interfere with such selection." This, clear enough, was a direct sequel to the Jackman Episode, but one wonders how far the nations concerned will be able to stick to their word once pressure is applied by a United Nations motion

On the technical angle, the issue of slow over rates was discussed all over again, but no firm decision could be reached It was felt that a regulation of 16 5 overs an hour should be incorporated into the tour conditions, but as illustrated by Australia's recent refusal to comply with the 100 overs stipulation, expediency could get the better of setting an example. And in an era where winning and prize money are so vital, mundane matters like giving the crowd their money's worth do not enter a strategist's thoughts



Keppler Wessels of South Africa relaxes before a match

Xenophobia in English cricket

RAVI CHATURVEDI reports on how overseas cricketers seeking to play County cricket are now coming under a cloud

THE unprecedented restrictions imposed by the British Immigration Department on prospective overseas cricketers have marred their chances of playing as professionals in County and League engagements in England.

The new legislation, to be effective from 1982, will set a skill-experience criterion for issuing work permits to players intending to participate as professionals in English County and League cricket The legislation, which has the sanction of the League Cricket Conference, stipulates three conditions. Firstly, that the incumbent must have played first class cricket, secondly, that he should have represented his country in Test cricket and finally, that the contracting body pays a minimum remuneration of £1,500 per season

A communique issued by the British Immigration Department stated, "From the 1982 cricket season onwards, only players who have represented their countries or who have played regularly in first class cricket will be eligible to secure work permits to play as professionals in County and League cricket" Hitherto, anyone could be contracted to play by a County or a club

Immigration records show that out of 84 permits issued this season to the professional cricketers, 29 played in English Counties and the rest in the League cricket The overseas players contracted by the Counties are required to register themselves with the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), the final authority to decide whether such contracts are in the best interest of English cricket. The necessary work permit is issued to the players only after approval by the TCCB.

The Professional Cricketers' Association in England welcomed the new legislation, which in their opinion, would safeguard the interests of professional cricketers in England

The events of this season indicate that from next year overseas cricketers might face a total blackout from the English County championship In a recent article, former England skipper Ray Illingworth asked the MCC and the TCCB to restrict the number of overseas players on the County staff, regardless of the duration of their employment with the various Counties He has also suggested that from next year each County be permitted only one overseas player per team However, this may not be applicable to the players under contract before 1979

In order to check the South African players who have found loopholes in the qualification clause for England Test team selection, Illingworth suggested that only those with British passports be made eligible to play for England Illingworth's call to reduce the number of overseas players in the English Counties found ready support from Peter May, the former England skipper In his opinion, engagement of overseas players has harmed the cause of English cricketers

May felt that due to an increasing number of overseas pace bowlers in County cricket, England has not been able to unearth fast bowlers of Test class within the country His list of pacemen presently engaged by the Counties included West Indians Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Norbert Phillip, Malcolm Marshall, Sylvester Clarke, Joel Garner and Ezra Mosley, Australia's Jeff Thomson, New Zealand's Richard Hadlee, Pakistan's Imran Khan and Sarfraz Nawaz, South Africa's Clive Rice, Garth Le Roux, Mike Procter and Vincent Van Der Bijl

Dwelling upon the paucity of top-class fast bowlers in England, Illingworth said that since the emergence of Chris Old, Bob Willis and Mike Hendrick, only two quick bowlers of Test standard had been produced by England—Ian Botham and Graham Dilley, among whom the latter carries the label—the "Great White Hope of English Cricket"

England's cricket problems stem from considerable foreign influence on the County game Although there is no dearth of fast bowlers in England, they lack opportunities to prove their potential The remedy lies in restricting the engagement of overseas cricketers in English County cricket

Imran Khan and Joel Garner are their days on the County circuit numbered?



JAYANTA SETT



Analysis

Begin the search for fresh blood now

TONY LEWIS, while admitting that England played magnificently to win the Headingley Test, urges that the selectors start unearthing talent for the forthcoming tour of India

THE first three days of the Headingley Test were merely the work of mortals, imperfect and too one sided to produce a five day drama with a twist in the tail

However, out of the murky skies came the hand of fate Downcast Botham, who had just lost the England captaincy, played an innings of startling brutality and Bob Willis, normally a bit stiff on two knees which have suffered the surgeon's knife, found the charge of youth in his limbs again.

Remember, England had followed on Botham's 149 not out with support from Graham Dilley, 56, and Chris Old, 29, gave England only the slenderest chance Australia had 130 to win, batting last Willis smashed through them with 8 for 43 and for only the second time in Test cricket history, the side following on won the match. It was incredible to see

You will be right if you guess that the pitch was a devil on which to bat. It was, but it was not a great deal more difficult for Australia than it had been for England

There were cracks in the surface from the start, the ball had bounced unevenly and moved sharply off the seam Although Australia's captain Kim Hughes kept his spinner, Ray Bright, in his side, Mike Brearley had gone into the match without a spinner at all

England were 227 runs behind when they followed on. Graham Gooch went to the admirable Terry Alderman for a duck Geoff Boycott grafted for an age for his 46, Peter Willey, too. But at 137 for 7, all appeared lost Australia would go two Tests up in the six-match series We were resigned to it

I watched Ian Botham's innings with a smile at the start Everyone had defended, but he was going to play a few shots He hit a few deliveries from Lillee and Terry Alderman with alarming power He played and missed The outfield was as quick as glass

Bang! Four through extra cover off the back foot

Whack! Four whipped over mid wicket



The first breakthrough Willis clean bowls Bright to seal Australia's fate in the third Cornhill Test

Crash! Over the top for another boundary

There were no delicate singles No crafty build-up England were sinking, and Botham was not prepared to swim spasmodically with the game's changing currents. He went blindly into the waves and struck out for the shore I expected to see him drown

When he did not, I decided to get around behind the bowler's arm, up in the BBC radio commentary box, to see if the ball was still moving It was, and more trickily, it was bouncing unevenly What happened was that Botham's swishing blade had put the long line of slips out of business

If he struck an edge, the ball flew over their heads. Kim Hughes set a fly-slip, but then Botham also spent a lot of his time middling the ball in front of the wicket The power with which he hit can be gauged from the fact that the boundary fielders could not cover more than half a dozen yards at square third man to run down his mighty cuts

If, as a schoolboy you dreamed of doing the heroic deed for your country, this was it All the old players, riveted to the windows of the Headingley pavilion, felt certain it had to end They knew that cricket is not a game to be manipulated by schoolboy dreams It can be harsh, and who knew better about that than Ian Botham? But on he went

Now, what about Australia? How did they weather the blitz? Truth is, they did not Just as England had been too generous with their run saving in the first innings when Australia got 401 for 9 declared, so Hughes let it slip. Botham was going to attack, come what may, and Hughes should have set the sort of defensive field which most countries used to set to the West Indians Botham, like Everton Weekes of old, was not going to resist the full range of strokes

Kim Hughes, after the event, will also see that he overbowled Lillee and Alderman He refused to try the spinner, until too late Alderman bowled 35 overs up the hill and Lillee, now aged 32, found it frustrating not to come back with his initial verve

Yet, still, these events were fairy stories, not reality All we could say, when the blast was over, was that 130 runs to win ought to be got, but not without a struggle Norman Yardley, former England captain of the late Forties, agreed that it is often easier to chase 230 than 130

Funny things happen in dressing rooms Panic builds up. And so it was with Australia. Willis thumped the ball into the pitch, short of a length, and depended on his speed and the uneven bounce A lot of defensive strokes were played chest high

The catches stuck for the first time for England. Edges flew and were held Taylor held four of them safely behind the stumps Lillee skilfully played shots as Botham had and so did Bright.

Brearley controlled the England effort with aplomb The incredible



Aussie fast bowler Geoff Lawson about to unleash his firepower

happened when Willis took out Bright's middle stump to complete a Test match miracle, which had people all over the country stopping in the high streets to ogle at television in shop windows, to see England assert itself at last on the cricket field

So what now? Should India tremble as they prepare to meet this new England spirit? The answer, to my mind is "No." This is no revolution I will never deny this team the great two days and the impossible victory, but it rather papered over the cracks

In this side are old-timers Boycott Taylor, Brearley, of forty years or older, Old, Willis and Willey moving to their mid-thirties For Willey that is not crucial, but for the faster bowlers the end is in sight

The selectors, I know had thoughts of introducing the young blood of Lavate, Mendis, Parker and one of a group of young fast bowlers For the moment, the England supporters are happy with their win but Indians can risk a wry chuckle that the renovation of the team which is essential before the Indian tour has been postponed

It was that way in 1972, when I was asked to lead to India a party consisting mainly of novices Cricket abroad is hard without the right blend of experience and youth At this moment in time the members of this England team would not last the course So something must be done

KAPIL DEV: Is he the best Indian all-rounder ever?

ASHIS RAY attempts to answer the question that everyone has been asking ever since the talented Haryana all-rounder appeared on the Test scene

LONG years ago—in the Thirties to be accurate—India possessed a pair of excellent opening bowlers in Mohammed Nissar and Amar Singh After that, Ramakant Desai in the Sixties promised a lot, but never quite attained an exalted place in the annals of fast bowling

Now, after an interminable wait, the country has discovered in Kapil Dev a pacer to be proud of He is not yet genuine quick, but rapidly zeroing in on that plane, and his average return of around four wickets a Test match, places him in the company of the very best.

In terms of all-rounders, Dattu Phadkar, Chandu Borde, Salim Durrani and Bapu Nadkarni have all made deep impressions but the only one to claim a spot in cricket history is Vinoo Mankad The person who has matched the illustrious Mankad is none other than Kapil Dev, who completed the "double" in 25 Tests—just two more than his famous predecessor

Yes, it goes without saying that the advent of Kapil Dev Nikhanj on the Indian cricket scene and especially the fruition of his bowling propensities has blown across like a whiff of fresh air in an otherwise pungent environment It's not that there has never been anything to enthuse over in Indian cricket After all, Ranji, Duleep, Merchant, Hazare, Mankad, Gupte, Chandrasekhar, Prasanna, Bedi, Vishwanath and Gavaskar all evoke stimulating memories, but in this corridor of fame Kapil Dev is unarguably the latest sensation As Gavaskar magnanimously puts it "He's the superstar of Indian cricket"

"I was not born into a cricketing family, but into a generation obsessed with the game" says the Haryana lad He arrived in this world in Chandigarh on 6 January, 1959, the second youngest of seven children His father, who died when he was only sixteen, was a businessman An older brother played cricket at the university level But that is as far as the Nikhanj family's contact with the game of cricket went



Kapil skips at the training camp held prior to the departure of the Indian team to Australia and New Zealand last winter

Yet, ten years ago, when Kapil Dev first began to take a serious interest in the flannelled sport, hockey, which had virtually dominated life in Northern India, was slipping from its pedestal and cricket taking its place And today's hero was among those swept up by the tide

Significantly, in 1973 he met D P Azad, his first coach who is still his master and mentor That brought about a tangible difference He was obviously exceptionally gifted, a natural, in other words But Azad groomed this talent to a sound technical approach, particularly in respect to his bowling So much so, that within a couple of seasons of that fateful encounter he had made an exemplary Ranji Trophy debut, taking six for 39 against Punjab, a stint the senior Nikhanj was able to watch before his sudden demise

My first glimpse of Kapil Dev came only a few months later The setting was the Eden Gardens and, as far as I remember, on a beautifully sunny winter afternoon in Calcutta he captured two early wickets to have Bengal on a bit of a hop The home team resuscitated itself but the scenario of those outswingers sent down with a pleasantly side-on action (he was no more than medium-pace then) lingers to date

Those days, and even now, it wasn't unusual to be turned on by anything even remotely representing a fast bowling prospect Time and again have Indians hankered down this trail, only to be disappointed But this looked a surefire entity The boy was young, tall and strong and with a classical overtone in his movements. THE question, as always, was would he get the proper guidance?

Needless to mention, Azad did a marvellous job, but when selected to tour Pakistan in 1978, Kapil Dev still needed a bit of polishing The rough

edges had to be smoothened out. He had catapulted into the limelight with an innings of 327 in a varsity match, and also drawn attention with a few of his Ranji Trophy feats

But when picked for the trip across the border, he was given the nod more in hope on the part of the selectors than in expectation of a heavy output of runs or wickets Crucially enough, of course, he ensnared four wickets and notched up an unbeaten 60 in the Irani Cup tie just before the announcement of the squad, and that, in all probability, tilted the scales in his favour

Ever since the war, a certain desperation has been noticed in Indian selectors when it has come to encouraging fast bowlers, and anyone indicating the slightest semblance of speed has been thrust into the forefront in an indiscriminate manner But the "spotting" of Kapil Dev was to prove an unqualified windfall

However, as expected, in Pakistan Kapil Dev bowled spiritedly, but without any outstanding control The wickets, according to him, were "graveyards for fast bowlers" He still managed to produce a lot of fire, though Over and above this, as a tailender, he conjured up a couple of really gutsy innings, one of them a hard hitting half century against the dreaded duo of Imran and Sarfraz

In, by and large, ideal batting conditions, the seasoned Indian spinners were torn to shreds, but out of the massacre Kapil Dev emerged, if not totally unscathed, principally unhurt And that in itself comprised a minor triumph As it happened, there were more impressive conquests to follow

For a start, on his return to India, and versus Kallicharran's West Indians, he was promoted in the batting order, and fully justified this elevation, compiling runs most consistently He capped it all with a glamorous undefeated 126 at the Ferozshah Kotla, and then played a major role in India's Chepauk win

But by the end of this series, the young cricketer had started feeling a nagging pain in his knee In fact, he concealed this ailment from most people and without any fuss, embarked on the tour of England Indeed, it turned out to be a wise decision, as despite resorting to pain-killing injections quite constantly, he adroitly assimilated the essentials and improved by leaps and bounds as a bowler. By the conclusion of the trip, he had become a force to reckon with in international cricket

"I spoke to Rajinder Pal before undertaking the journey," he reveals. "And he gave me very good advice " And what was it that impressed him about English cricket, and created the required maturity? "It was the professional approach that struck me, and watching some of the senior players handle the varying conditions, drove home some useful points."

ADMITTEDLY, Kapil was a major letdown in the Prudential Cup matches. But the few weeks that sepa-





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Kapil and Yograj hurl the medicine ball to one another Others in the picture are (standing) Chauhan, Doshi, Yashpal Sharma, Ghavri, Azad On the ground is Patil

rated this tournament and the first Test at Edgbaston saw him exploit the County games to the full, and in the Birmingham engagement he took all the five wickets that fell in England's mammoth first innings of 633.

Indeed, he amplified his ability with every outing and finished with a haul of 16 in the series, which included a marvellous spell off a shortened run at Headingley in the third Test He captured the wickets of Boycott, Gooch and Gower in that stint, and had the home side struggling at 58 for four at one stage

But as a batsman, he recorded a top score of 21, and reached double figures only twice, which, to put it mildly, amounted to a gross understatement of his potential.

Back home and still suffering severe pain in his knee, he, however, put to perfect use his visit to England, and pulverised both Australia and Pakistan to spearhead an Indian victory in both sequences.

He emerged as the highest wicket taker in both series, grabbing 28 and 32 victims respectively to, perhaps, confirm beyond doubt that he was a new hurdle to contend with as far as batsmen went.

In the realm of world cricket his batting, too, signalled flashes of brilliance, his most notable being his 83 and 84 in the two confrontations at

Up goes the umpire's finger and Kapil has another scalp that of Wasim Bari



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Chepauk, and the blazing 69 at the Wankhede Stadium. Looking back, of course—and not surprisingly—he rates his all-round performance at Chepauk against Pakistan when he got that brilliant knock and gobbled up eleven wickets in the match as his most memorable endeavour. "Beating Pakistan in that Test, and the fact that I played a part in it, has given me the greatest satisfaction of my career so far".

But by this point, the strain on the knee was beginning to tell. A total of 26 Test matches in a span of a year and a half would take a toll on anybody. To play 17 of them in a seven-month period with an increasing cartilege problem was sheer madness. And when the Jubilee Test arrived, he was virtually a spent force.

Yet, fascinatingly enough, he emphasised in this Test that he had immense possibilites as a batsman, if only he applied himself He contrived a highly responsible, and technically illuminating innings of 45 not out in India's second venture, and that amidst the shambles of an impending innings defeat. Unfortunately, he has not always indicated the same dedication or reliability since, which remains a slight pity.

THE knee indisposition was the most worrying thing for Kapil Dev, nay for Indian cricket, after that commemorative clash with England and one wondered what was going to be done Here, to their credit, the Board of Control for Cricket in India stepped in very wisely and sent the fast bowler to Birmingham, where a well-known specialist along with Bernie Thomas, the England physiotherapist, did a splendid job

The delicate operation for the removal of a minuscus and a cyst was performed to perfection, and within weeks of the surgery the Indian all-rounder was ready to pound away on surfaces both hard and soft Indeed, it was this galloping up and down on tough soils which had done the damage in the first place, but the trauma was over. "I feel fine" he said when he left London for India in the autumn of last year, and was soon to establish that, in fact, he did feel fine

The next commission was Australasia, and a vital one at that Before the first Test in Sydney, he moulded a murderous innings against New Zealand in one of the over-limit clashes, but it was at the SCG that he really blossomed into his own as a bowler, taking five wickets in Australia's only outing.

True, the Australian bowlers also did exceedingly well in this match, but they were helped considerably towards their bounty by some really anaemic batting by the Indians—a kind of letup which wasn't forthcoming as far as their counterparts were concerned.

Then, at Adelaide on a peach of a pitch, he subjected his foes to a thoroughly torrid examination, bowling with exceptional fire and appearing to be the quickest bowler in the match.


YOGRAJ SINGH

But the grandest moment was still to come. In Melbourne, Kapil Dev was laid low by a groin injury, and did not take part in the proceedings on the third and fourth day of the Test, barring batting for a brief while with a runner. With Australia chasing the most manageable of targets, irrespective of the venom in the wicket, India were reduced to just one physically unhandicapped front-line bowler in Karsan Ghavri

Shivlal Yadav had been withdrawn from the match after incurring a fracture on his foot, and Dilip Doshi, although devastating in his discomfort, was also bothered by a hairline fracture In the circumstances, Kapil Dev, very much against medical advice, went up to his captain at a party on the eve of the final day and intimated his availability for the following halt day, as it proved to be

The rest, one reckons, is still too fresh in everyone's memories to demand repetition But to touch on this glorious moment in Indian cricket history, let it be said that although all that was expected of a bowler on a track like the one at the MCG for the last India-Australia Test was a proper length many an experienced player, in a simular situation, has failed to deliver just that

Kapil Dev did not fail and with support from Doshi, spreadeagled the Australian innings to shoot them out for their lowest-ever total against India He emerged from the encounter covered with glory and India, for the first time, had avoided losing a series in Australia

Of course, a section of the Australian Press, and perhaps, even the home cricketers, were a little suspicious of the events that had overtaken them How could a man who couldn't walk properly the previous night, they asked bowl such a spell?

And surrounding him in the dressing room after the match, some of the scribes queried the nature of the treatment he had undergone Did he take injections? Did he take anabolic steroids? In response, the hounded hero remarked "All I applied was an ointment prescribed to me by the doctor" He added, and this was reproduced in many a paper "I had to do it for Sunil"

The truth is, he woke up at five o'clock on the fateful morning and went for jog around the hotel Thereafter, he sat down with his friend and teammate Yograj to recite the *Gita* with a firm resolve Perhaps, it was the will power that carried him through His skipper Sunil Gavaskar, in a Press conference after the showing called it "a miracle" and qualified the statement by saying "Miracles do happen in Indian cricket"

AFTER this euphoria, New Zealand, just as much as it was for India, was an anticlimax Admittedly, he was quite thunderous at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, but faded away subsequently, and by the Auckland Test looked a tired and jaded figure



SUNIL BHATTACHARYA

Another boundary! Kapil flicks his counterpart, Imran Khan, to the ropes

But he is back in business in the Lancashire League, where playing for Nelson, he has already accumulated 500 runs with an average of around 55, and taken about 40 wickets for approximately sixteen apiece. Naturally, he's quite an attraction for the locals, and hundreds flock to the ground to catch a glimpse of the all rounder extraordinary

In the absence of Sarfraz Nawaz, he has played a couple of games for Northamptonshire and, in fact, is on a two-year contract with them This, after refusing Middlesex, who were very keen to employ his services for the full season, and who have since settled for the Australian Jeff Thomson It's remarkable that a shrewd cricketing brain like Mike Brearley's—and he is the Middlesex captain—should prefer Kapil Dev to "Thommo", but that's the respect the twenty two-year-old has earned from analysts and fellow cricketers

But despite the honour, the adulation and praise, Kapil Dev Nikhanj remains a simple soul Fame and glory have not wraped his mind When a lady journalist, who had done a cover story on a popular Pakistani cricketer, an effort much resented by the Indian camp, came to him for an interview in Bangalore during the first Test between the neighbouring countries a year and a half ago, his answer was a flat "no", and he immediately went back to his colleagues to gleefully advertise the encounter.

Again, when the news was splashed about his alleged affair with the film actress Sarika, he stoutly denied the matter and promised to teach her a lesson for linking him with her Whether he kept his word one doesn't know, but he did maintain "I am not interested in such cheap publicity"

And somewhat keeping to this trend, he bowed to his elder brother's wishes, got engaged in the traditional manner, and on May 6 this year, exchanged vows with Romi Bhatia, a girl from Bombay "I don't know anything about it", he says a little embarrassed, when reference is drawn to his betrothal "My family arranged all that", but he would take great pains over writing his letters to his then fiancee from Australia.

Kapil Dev is an unabashed admirer of other cricketers Dennis Lillee, he considers to be "the greatest" About Gavaskar, he says "There is no comparison with anyone else". Vishwanath, he describes as "extraordinary" As for himself, he is very modest. "I don't think I have done anything special. Getting the double in 25 Tests is all right, nothing very swift".

He, however, claims he's had no disappointments in his career. And what about his ambition? Does he want to lead India? "I am in no hurry. Whether I become captain or not doesn't bother me. All I want to do is to serve my country".

He believes he is going to be faster still in the coming seasons. Indeed, bowling he points out, is his priority.

The modest superstar

LIKE ANY other great cricketer, Kapil Dev Nikhanj too has his detractors

Not that they bother him, for they are a negligible minority in comparison with the thousands who claim that he is the best thing in a long time that has happened to Indian cricket A few years ago, Kapil could have walked the streets of any major city in the country and gone unrecognised, but that is no longer the case Even in out-of-the-way towns, his face is probably as well known as that of the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi

He had a hectic baptism of fire in the cruel world of Test cricket, where many a promising young star's ambitions have been rudely shattered, never to be rekindled That first tour of Pakistan under Bedi went a long way to establishing the young Haryana Lad's name as a household word Then came the home series against Kallicharran's West Indies, followed by the World Cup and the series against England. Back again to India for a twin series, first against Kim Hughes' Australians and then Asif Iqbal's Pakistanis An aborted tour of the West Indies and then yet another twin tour of Australia and New Zealand

Kapil Dev, in other words, is a veteran at an age when most other people have just begun to think in terms of a Test career He spelt out what India needed most to build up a team that would be capable of taking on any side in the world India have long mourned the passing of fast bowlers Kapil was an answer to the critics' prayers Besides, all-rounders are hard enough to find nowadays and Kapil was soon establishing the fact that he was one of the most talented all rounders in a long time

His appearance lent new strength to the Indian side, which was already going through a vital period of transition The spinners were on their way out, the middle order was as brittle as ever and there was no pace attack worth mentioning Kapil changed all that, drastically While he could do nothing to offset the passing of the spin quartet, his development as a strike bowler meant that the Indian captain would not need to rely so heavily on the guile of spinners India at last possessed a bowler who could attack from the beginning of an innings, rather than just trundle through the formality of the opening overs to wear off some of the shine of the ball for Bedi and Co.

The middle order suddenly began to swell the total of runs scored Kapil took most of the credit for that and rightly so His maiden fifty in Pakistan was an omen of greater things to come and even though he has not exactly lived up to his hard-hitting reputation in recent times, there is always a perceptible change in tempo when he walks out to the crease

Kapil is a favourite of crowds all over the country, but the Eden Gardens crowd will always have a soft spot for him, after they witnessed that hurricane innings against the West Indies that had fielders retreating to the furthest corners of the gigantic arena Kapil's shots scorched the grass that morning and though he fell far short of the century that the crowd was willing him to get, he had left his mark

When the Australians under Hughes toured this country most people scorned the thought of going to watch the Tests, instead preferring to save their money and wait for the forthcoming clash when Pakistan toured a couple of months later The Aussies, according to public opinion were easy meat, while the real thrills would come when Asif Iqbal's side arrived Yet, there was one young lad who queued for hours in Delhi for a ticket and when asked why he was wasting his time, answered enthusiastically that he was only doing so in order to be able to watch his hero in action One did not need to enquire which hero he meant

Kapil seems to have a strange affinity for the Kotla ground In October 1979, he wrecked the Aussies, taking five wickets for 82 runs, his best figures at the time But greater things were to follow- once again at the Kotla ground Against the Pakistanis a short while later, he rocked the opponents in a fashion which has come to be associated with only Kapil Dev He ripped through their batting lineup, opening the bowling from the Delhi Gate and swinging the ball viciously

He started by removing the aristocratic Majid Khan The latter, brilliant batsman that he is, refused to nibble at the deliveries that whistled past his off stump, but in truth he played only two balls before Kapil knocked his off stump clean out of the ground, to the roars of the crowd Zaheer Abbas, struggling to find the form that had tormented and frustrated the Indians only the previous winter, was the next to go, his off stump sent flying yards behind the batsman Pakistan were 13 for two wickets and Kapil was firing on all cylinders in a fashion that no one who was privileged to witness, will forget in a hurry

Mudassar Nazar, century maker in the first Test at Bangalore, was the next to come And go Kapil came round the wicket and had him caught immediately by Chetan Chauhan In nine overs he had sliced through the top of the batting, removing the first three batsmen for only 17 runs The next day he removed Wasim Raja and Wasim Bari, ending the innings with figures of 5 for 58

Yet, in a typically modest gesture, he said later that he hadn't done very much really

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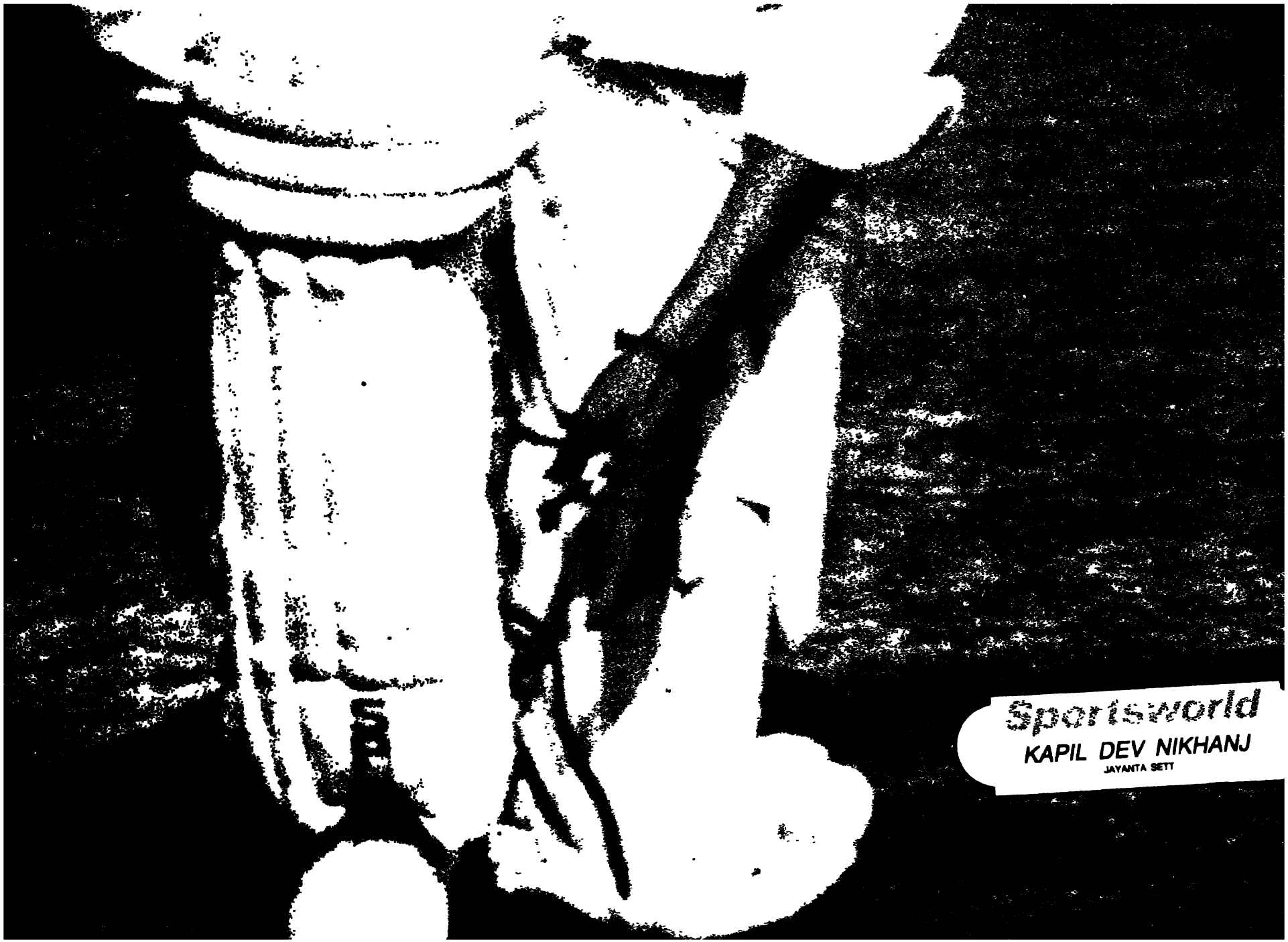
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Sportsworld
KAPIL DEV NIKHANJ
JAYANTA SETT

Rocking the boat—violently



Once again, controversy has gripped East Bengal. After the club's loss at the hands of Mohun Bagan, the three Iranians and coach Santo Mitra came out into the open, each side alleging that the other has done more harm than good to the club. The Iranians accuse the coach of groupism and callousness, while he in turn claims that they are not a part of the team in any sense. SARAJIT DEB spoke to both sides to get the full picture



CONTROVERSY is nothing new to East Bengal, or so it would seem

At around the same time of the year, the club was under a cloud in 1979, an incident involving three Punjab players who were then assisting the side Manjit Singh, Gurdev Singh and Harjinder Singh had problems with Karnataka star Devraj The upshot of the trouble was that the latter was forced to leave the city, followed by Aroon Ghosh, the coach that year He relinquished his post because he was unable to cope with the internal bickering and wrangling that persisted at the time Headlong clashes involving players and officials disturbed his schedules and made a mockery of his plans for his side The interference, too, proved to be too much Aroon Ghosh, in short, had no other option but to quit

Are we about to witness a similar scene this year? Once again, there are three out-station players involved, in this case the Iranians Majid Basker, Jamshid Nasirri and Mehmood Khabazi. Discontent has been simmering for a long time, but matters finally came to a head the day after the Mohun Bagan East Bengal match Santo Mitra, the present East Bengal coach, reported on the match for one of the local dailies and his despatch was given the heading "A match cannot be won with mercenaries"

Who were the mercenaries he was referring to? The East Bengal coach was prudent enough to avoid names, but it was clear that he was lashing out at the three Iranians The article created quite an uproar because of an incident mentioned After Mohun Bagan had scored, wrote Mitra, one of the Iranians—Majid—was noticed lying on the ground. The coach, fearing that his star player had been injured, rushed onto the field to attend to him To his surprise, he found that there was nothing wrong with the footballer and was further humiliated when Majid ordered him off the ground In his report, the East Bengal coach stated that the Iranians do not feel for the side

This, quite naturally, upset the three foreigners, who were further humiliated by East Bengal supporters when the club played their next League fixture When I met them later to get their version of the story, Khabazi assumed the role of spokesman and explained exactly why things had started going wrong, but the other two also helped out with the details.

He (Santo Mitra) always stressed on individual play and did nothing to develop combination, team spirit or stamina. There was no co-ordination in the side but he did not make any attempt to develop it.

All three of them, they explained, had played soccer in Iran for the fun of the game They came to India for higher studies and thought they would devote their time to their books Khabazi was the first to start playing in Calcutta and it was he who told his friends about his experience on the Calcutta Maidan. The three of them signed for East Bengal in 1980 after club officials had approached them with an offer. Majid and Jamshid made their first appearance on the Calcutta Maidan in the Federation Cup and, as they admit, it was a great feeling to be able to live up to the expectations of their supporters Majid and Jamshid found the behaviour of the massive crowds novel. "In Iran, whenever there is an important match, the stands are full, but here the crowds throng the ground for all the games We found it difficult to adjust so quickly to the old 4-2-4 system that is followed here We knew that, given the time, we would be able to do so because we have played in the 4-3-3, 4-4-2 and 4-2-4 systems some time or the other in our career.

"There was an element of misunderstanding between P. K. Banerjee, (our coach last year) and us but that was soon cleared. He helped us a lot and developed a tremendous fighting spirit among the players. We used to practise a lot, which helped us

develop stamina and with the help of the experienced players in the team, we were a tough side. East Bengal was the only outfit that maintained a clean record against Indian sides last year. Though we were considered the third strongest side last year, we drew with Mohun Bagan in the Federation Cup final and defeated them in the Rovers Cup semi-final In the final, we drew against Mohammedan Sporting. We played well last year, confounding the critics who had predicted that we were doomed even before we had started.

"This year, immediately after the transfers, our team went to Bangalore to participate in the Stafford Cup We emerged the joint winners with Mohammedan Sporting, after which we came back to Calcutta. Most of our outstation players had gone back home, which meant that we had hardly any practice before the team left for the Federation Cup. It was quite apparent to those who witnessed our matches, that the team was badly off form and that there was hardly any co-ordination We have no complaints about the coach who went with us, Prabir Mazumdar. We did not face any problems with him but one thing we were sure about—he was not capable of coaching a team of East Bengal's stature

"Before the League started, we saw a new coach, Santo Mitra, taking charge of the team We won our first few League matches quite convincingly and he was happy with the margin of victory each time He always stressed on individual play and did nothing to develop combination, team spirit or stamina There was no co-ordination in the side but he did not make any attempt to develop it Even the laymen can tell you that co ordination is the most important ingredient of success

All right, so we could not play up to expectations that day, but that does not mean we are mercenaries, not by a long streak.

"He soon started creating problems among the players. As it is, we have players from various States in our team. He tried to exploit that and started forming groups In fact, we think he wanted us to join his group, else how does one explain the fact that he used to call us to his office?

"THE relationship between a player and a coach should exist only on the ground or at most in the club tent Why should we go to his office? If he had anything to say to us, he should have been able to say it in front of the rest of our colleagues What was so private that it could not be said in front of everyone else?

"This kind of thing had an adverse effect on the players No one was sure at any given time whether he would or would not be playing in the forthcoming fixtures In fact, neither was our coach Even before big matches, he never used to discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of our rivals, simply because he had no confidence in himself whatsoever How can a team suddenly switch over to a completely new system of play? Strange though it may seem, we had only played the 4-3 3 system on the blackboard.

"After we conceded that goal against Mohun Bagan, he changed our formation from 4-3 3 to 4 2-4 He just was not sure of what he was doing. He dithered about whether to replace Fareed or Joseph Machado and to bring in Khabazi instead We had not been told till two days prior to the game what formation we would be following Because of this, we were not even mentally attuned to the needs of the game We were just not keyed up We were worried even before the match had begun, simply because no one knew what was happening How then could one expect us to give of our best in such a crucial match, given the conditions prevailing?

"To our minds, the coach has published those statements to safeguard his own interests because his team lost Had we won, he would not have said anything He is only saying these things to save his own skin

"We can defend each of his allegations made against us He claims that we come late to practice sessions but what does it matter if someone is say ten or fifteen minutes late? The coach still has sufficient time to see to the needs of all his players, so that is no excuse at all He is just making excuses to cover up his own inability to inspire the team. We don't understand why we should be singled out for the failure of the side Everyone must take the rap the players, the coach and the officials must share the blame

"He has called us mercenaries He

The three Iranians Jamshid Khabazi and Majid with their captain Manoranjan (second from left)




JAMSHID NASIRRI
MAJID BASKER

says we do not feel for the side. To this, let us pose a question by way of an answer. If we are mercenaries, as the coach has claimed, then why did Jamshid once play with stitches? He did not have to. His head was bandaged but he played in the interest of the team. True, that was some time ago, but that sums up our attitude towards East Bengal. Last year, Khabazi was also injured during the DCM tournament but he continued playing.

"It is not that we do not feel for the side, not in the least. It is just that anyone can have an off day All right, so we did not play up to expectations that day, but that does not mean we are mercenaries, not by a long streak.

"We do not wish to become involved in any controversies. We will continue to play for the club and try our best to help the side win top honours It is for the club to decide what they must do with the coach He did not come to the ground after we lost that match to Mohun Bagan, although we cannot find a reasonable excuse for such action. If he was confident of himself, he should have stayed on and tried to improve not only himself but the team as well"

Even before big matches, he never used to discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of our rivals, simply because he had no confidence in himself whatsoever.

Majid, when asked whether he had in fact told Santo Mitra to "get out" during the East Bengal-Mohun Bagan encounter, replied in the affirmative "Yes, I did say that But that was because I was upset at the time I was disturbed because he was the man who had failed to do his duty towards the club"

SANTO MITRA was equally candid in his revelations "My story begins," he said, "with the offer to coach my old club, East Bengal After they had lost to Mohun Bagan in the Federation Cup, some of the club officials approached me with an offer to coach the team Initially, I told them that I did not have sufficient time to devote myself fully to such a task, because of my job, which is quite a responsible one (he is a senior officer in the State Bank of India) Yet they repeated the offer to me and requested that I reconsider my earlier decision."

"Since I was in something of a quandary, I consulted some of my colleagues and they told me that I should take up the post as a challenge. They told me that since the club was in the doldrums—as a result of their Federation Cup defeat—it would be



JAYANTA SETT

The three Iranians relaxing in their flat

creditable if I could bring them back to peak form My friends impressed on me that anyone can take over a successful project and emerge from it covered in glory, while true satisfaction comes from having turned a disaster into a success There was made a lot of sense to me so I approached the people in my office and they said they could spare me this year, but definitely not in 1982 That was how I took up the assignment, but it was basically my love for the club that prompted me to accept

"The Iranians say that I failed to inspire the team To this let me reply that the building up of team spirit is not just one-day traffic There must be a positive effort made on both sides if team spirit is to be strengthened I have a clear conscience in this regard. It was not my job to take injured players to visit doctors or to take them off to hospital Yet I used to do these things because, to my mind, it helped foster a closer spirit I even used to visit the Iranians' quarters (a flat in a posh area of the city) in an effort to understand their problems.

"I felt that since they are basically outsiders, they might appreciate it if I made the effort to see if I could help them I made a conscious effort to mix with them, entertained them at my expense and generally tried to make them feel at home. I did not want them to feel in any way that they were being treated on a different level from the Indian players in the team.

"I believe that it is the duty of a coach to nurture a spirit of kinship among his players, no matter how diverse their backgrounds or upbringing may be I used to visit the camp—where our outstation players stay—almost every other day Then again, after practice sessions, I used to wait to give some of the players a lift in my

Jamshid being introduced to Prabir Majumdar at the start of the season Khabazi is second from right



JAYANTA SETT

It is immaterial whether I continue coaching or not but this sort of indiscipline must be prevented at all costs.

car, a thing I did for the last two months. Only time will prove how hard I tried to do the best for my team

"Let us come to the topic of practice sessions The Iranians were always the last to turn up although ironically enough, they stay closest to the ground Every coach plans his schedule down to the minutest of details, so when some of the leading players do not show up on time, everything is thrown out of gear completely Of the three, Jamshid was the most serious about the game Majid and Khabazi always claimed that they were injured, or that they were not feeling well, or that they were tired. The truth of it was that they were not very keen on practice

"They fell into the habit of leaving the ground without permission during practice sessions This, of course, had an adverse effect on the other players Even then, I never made an issue of it, instead trying to reason with them to make them understand They did not try and understand my point, however, and always came up with a host of excuses "They say that I failed to build up a team spirit How can there be a friendly atmosphere among the players if three of them (the Iranians) stay in a posh flat while the other outstation players have to make do in a common mess? Let the readers judge for themselves.

"Another allegation made against me is that I neglected to concentrate on the development of the players' stamina I feel that this is a very foolish statement After watching the rest of my players, say Monoranjan Bhattacharya, Fareed, Somenath Banerjee or even Amalraj (who was seriously injured during the Stafford Cup and who has since recovered fully) can anyone honestly say that they are lacking in stamina? Let me say that there are only three players in my team who are short on stamina Who then, is to blame for this? The three players in question, or their coach?

"WHEN I took over the responsibility of coaching the side, I had very little time to prepare the team before the Calcutta League I therefore insisted on two practice sessions As it is, the schedule of the League is very tight so I could not take the risk of going in for heavy practice, especially on the day before a match But the Iranians were never serious nor did they lead the kind of restrained life that top players are supposed to

"I read somewhere that they said I did not give them proper practice and insisted only on shooting (He smiles) If that had been the case, I have been proved right. It was due to poor marksmanship on the part of our forwards that we lost against Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan and drew with Railway FC. In each of these matches we created many openings, yet still failed to score.

"Let's discuss the much-talked-about 4-3-3 system that we adopted for the Mohun Bagan match From the very beginning, I had thought about adopting this system, but I did not have sufficient time to try it out before the League began I had no good positive wingers and three good halves, so it was but natural that I tried to adopt the formation In the League, every match is of equal importance because the stakes are very high. Losing one point means that a team falls behind in the race for the League honours

"It was ultimately decided that we would try the system in the match against Eastern Railway But just before the match, Majid said that he would only enter the field 15 minutes after the start Now what explanation can one give for something like that? If a player is fit enough to enter the field after 15 minutes, why can't he enter at the very beginning? I requested the football secretary to speak to him and ultimately even the general secretary spoke to him as well, but to no avail

"I had no other alternative but to stick to the 4-2-4 system One can very well ask why I did not insist on the 4-3-3 system without Majid The answer is very simple Majid is without doubt the key player in our forward line If the 4-2-4 formation is played, a forward has to cover 18 yards, but in the 4-3-3, he has to cover about 25 yards Without Majid, I could not even think about adopting the 4-3-3 formation. None of the other players has the command and accuracy in passing that he has

"My plan that day was upset because of Majid After the Mohammedan Sporting match and before the Mohun Bagan match, I had two games. In both the matches, we followed the 4-3-3 formation strictly but then also, in spite of repeated requests, Majid did not play How can they blame me with regard to lack of co-ordination in the 4-3-3 system? It was definitely not my fault

"They said that I tried to form a group amongst the players (Again he smiles) This is another silly remark In my first team, there are only two Bengalis (Monoranjan Bhattacharya

The other players also get money, but they have some affinity for the club. Not these Iranians.

Never in the history (of the club) have there been four consecutive major defeats. Now is the time to take serious action.

and Biswajit Das) and who would be such a fool as to form a group with them? In fact, I used to concentrate more on the out-station players than I did on the local players The latter group sometimes felt offended and complained to me, but I explained to them that it is also their duty to see that the out-station players are made to feel at home. As for the allegation that I tried getting the Iranians 'into my group', that is so stupid that it makes me want to laugh

"I do not deny having called them to my office, but I will explain why I used to do that The Iranians spend most of their free time in and around Park Street (a posh area of the city) and since my office happens to be in the same locality, I used to think that by talking with them, I would be able to sort out some of their problems. That it could be translated otherwise never even crossed my mind

"IT is not that we did not have a good relationship in the beginning Relations suddenly changed before the Mohammedan Sporting match We wanted to win that match very badly because unless we won, we would lose a lot of ground in the fight for League honours So we decided to play aggressive football Khabazi was not named in the team so he started shouting, but I stuck to my decision and refused to field him As luck would have it, the match could not be played due to rain

"It seems to be Khabazi's contention that since he was in the team last year, he can surely be in the side this year as well But what he seems to have forgetten is that there were no positive halves in the side last year This year we have three halves, all of whom are better than Khabazi It is not that I have not tried him I've even played him as a winger but he did not play well No player in the side can say he was not tried I tried giving everyone a fair opportunity, so I cannot be blamed for not giving him a chance

"Coming back to the Mohammedan Sporting match. The cancelled match was played a week later and during this period, a lot of developments took place. Indirectly, a lot of pressure was brought to bear on me to include him (Khabazi) in the team The officials told me to 'manage it somehow' and left it at that. For me the choice was clear: if I stuck to my point, then I knew I would not get the co-operation of the other two Iranians, who were very important for my side. Another factor which prompted me to field



JAYANTA SETT

Prabir Majumdar giving instructions to Majid Jamshid (partly hidden) is at extreme left

Khabazi was that there is hardly any difference between him and Somenath Banerjee I knew that the Mohammedan Sporting stoppers are not headers, while Khabazi is capable of sending in good lobs Basically, however, I wanted the best efforts of the other two Iranians

"Khabazi played eventually, but we lost that match I shouldered the whole responsibility and even said that Majid was not fully fit I did all this because I wanted my players to feel for the side We still had one important match ahead of us, the game against Mohun Bagan, and I knew if we won that match, we would regain a lot of prestige

"We had lost our last three important matches (two in the Federation Cup, one each to Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan and one in the League against Mohammedan Sporting) and it was a matter of existence for the club I thought the players would be more serious in their approach, but Majid misbehaved, saying he was not fit and would only play, if he was sorely needed What one fails to understand is why he did not play from the start in those matches What was his problem? It certainly wasn't physical fitness

"The other players may not have been as responsible as they should have been, but definitely they were not harmful It's just that their involvement was not evident to the extent it was in the case of the local players We lost the Mohun Bagan match because there was no cooperation from the three Iranians

"The charge that I concentrated on 'blackboard play' is absurd I did so on only three occasions as I believe that the turf is the best blackboard possible Before the Mohun Bagan match, it was decided that we would adopt the 4-3-3 formation They (the Iranians) agreed to the proposal, but stressed on including experienced players. At the beginning I did not understand that they had a definite ulterior motive I thought that they were being helpful But afterwards I realised that they wanted Khabazi to replace Fareed in

Majid Majid watches Jamshid shoot a ball



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

the half line and for that reason were stressing the need for experienced players.

"Khabazi stated somewhere after the match that he was in the team but was later dropped How did he know about the formation of the team? The team is decided on just before the match When the team was announced and Khabazi found that he was not in the first eleven, but was included as an extra, he said he would not even get dressed.

"In the presence of the football secretary he said the repercussion of this (his exclusion from the team) would be seen after the match. He told the football secretary that he would only change if ordered to by the football secretary himself Just before entering the field, all the players took an oath to try their best, but Majid was totally indifferent When the other players asked him what was wrong all he told them was 'If you help me, I'll help you, otherwise I can do nothing.' What did he mean by that remark? Was it a sensible thing to say before an important match?

"On the ground also they started misbehaving From the start (about 20 minutes after the match began) they (Majid and Jamshid) started shouting and saying that Fareed should be replaced by Khabazi The football secretary and the general secretary began applying pressure on me It is not that they meant any harm They simply hoped that if Khabazi was brought in, Majid would play well and score a goal They badly wanted the team to win, but what they do not seem to realise is that nowadays no player can score a goal of his own free will, because the opposing players will not give him any leeway

"After the match they said somewhere that they (the Iranians) felt a change was needed in the team Why should that be the case? The captain, Monoranjan Bhattacharya never told me anything Then they said that I only brought in Khabazi after we let in that goal That is true, but what they seem to have forgotten, very conveniently, is that I had told Khabazi to warm up before the goal It was my bad luck that the goal was scored during the period he was warming up

"My experiences of the last two months say that these Iranians are being backed up by a section of the officials or else they wouldn't have had the courage to misbehave Sometimes they have been very good during practice, but then suddenly the next day, there is a change in their attitudes There is a lot of wrangling between the officials and the football section was victimised because most of the members and supporters are mainly interested in football I know the officials have nothing against me personally, but in the ultimate analysis the team has suffered because of infighting among the officials

"Yes, I was a bit upset emotionally after our defeat at the hands of Mohun Bagan I had mentioned the word mercenary, but not in the context it is



[illegible] under the watchful eyes of coach Santo Mitra

now being quoted in certain quarters What I meant was that these players reap all the benefits possible from the club, but what are they giving the club in return? The other players also get money, but they have some affinity for the club Not these Iranians

"AFTER the Mohammedan Sporting match, I had assumed full responsibility for the loss but then I decided that the buck must stop at some time or the other Why should I take the responsibility again for the defeat against Mohun Bagan? I knew the problems would persist To me, East Bengal, as a team, is an institution, is far more important than the three Iranians It is for the club officials to decide who was right and who was wrong My conscience is clear Whatever I did was for the welfare of the team.

"Most of these acts of indiscipline used to take place in front of the football secretary and sometimes even the general secretary So, they must be well aware of the facts They know that the Iranians never mixed with the other players and were always the first to leave the ground They also know that they never even used to bath after the matches and practice sessions, but used to put on their clothes and go away

"From 1979 the achievements of the club amount to practically nothing Never in the history of the club have there been four consecutive major defeats Now is the time to take some serious action In 1976 77, the club was bold enough to take disciplinary action against four star players (Gautam Sarkar, Sudhir Karmakar, Ashokelal Banerjee and Tarun Bose) but what I do not understand is why they are hesitating to take any steps now

"In 1979 Aroonda (Aroon Ghosh) left because of indiscipline, but the hangover still prevails If someone tell me that there was no problem last year I'd be the last person to believe him I was a witness to what happened during the DCM between last year's coach P K Banerjee and the Iranians.



[illegible] hoping to patch up the [illegible]

P K Banerjee may not have said anything, but I am the last person to tolerate indiscipline Coaching is not my bread and butter while this may be in the case of others It was love for the side that prompted me to take up the challenge

"When we played for the club, we came under J C Guha He was a strict man as far as discipline was concerned You can say we are his disciples We will never stand for anything wrong. All this time I kept quiet because I felt for the club, but now I think the time has come for me to speak out Every time something goes wrong, it is the coaches who are made the scapegoats This should not be the case It may so happen that by me coming out in the open, the other coaches will benefit

"Some people may say that I am taking this stand because we lost to Mohun Bagan. Yet, I swear that I had decided before the match itself that I'd speak out, irrespective of the outcome There must be a stop to all this indiscipline It is immaterial whether I continue coaching or not but this sort of indiscipline must be prevented at all costs

"I purposely did not go to the ground after the Mohun Bagan match because I wanted to point out the indiscipline that prevailed on the part of the Iranians I have written to the general secretary asking him to give me some time so that I can inform him about the problems If he tries to dilly-dally my request to meet him, I'll formally inform the club that I'm relinquishing my post as coach It is for the club officials to decide as to what stand they will take."

I met the young football secretary, Prasanta Ghosh and asked him what he had to say about the whole affair "At present all that I can say is we are waiting anxiously for the whole thing to be settled I know I am being very optimistic because once a glass breaks, it is next to impossible to fix it properly. But we are trying our best At the present we are not thinking in terms of other coaches The League has more or less finished Let us see what happens in the meantime If Santoda does not want to come back, we'll have to decide all over again on what is to be done

"Yes, it is very similar to the 1979 incident but that year the team did not play many tournaments after the infighting. I do not want that to happen all over again And if we want to play in tournaments I think the services of the Iranians is absolutely essential."

Though he did not say it in so many words, it was quite apparent that if the club was forced to make a choice between Santo Mitra and the three Iranians, the foreigners certainly would not be told to leave.

As we go to press, we learn that the East Bengal general secretary has met Santo Mitra and has requested him not to take a hurried decision. He has sought time. Another interesting development is that the three Iranians have left their flat and, for all practical purposes, are missing.

To me, East Bengal, as a team, as an institution, is far more important than the three Iranians. It is for the club officials to decide who was right and who was wrong.

My experiences of the last two months say that these Iranians are being backed up by a section of the officials or else they wouldn't have had the courage to misbehave.

CALCUTTA LEAGUE

Only Mohun Bagan impress

Mohun Bagan was the only side among the big three to win two matches during the week in question. Mohammedan Sporting drew their only match, while East Bengal lost one. A CORRESPONDENT reports

MOHUN BAGAN: In the first match of the week, against Tollygunge Agragami, Mohun Bagan won convincingly by a clear 3-0 margin Deepak Banerjee played in place of Md Habib in the half line alongside Gautam Sarkar, Shyam Thapa in place of Xavier Pius, Sanjib Choudhury in place of Compton Dutta and captain Pradip Choudhury replaced Samar Bhattacharya Despite the number of changes, the team did not function too badly Indeed, there were a few good moves during the encounter

In the first half, a lot of chances were wasted before Shyam Thapa gave them the lead But what really inspired the team was a foul committed by Tollygunge Agragami left back Swapan Bose Surajit Sengupta got hold of a ball and dodged past Swapan, who seeing that Surajit had only the goalkeeper in front of him, caught hold of Surajit's jersey and held on for dear life It was way outside the penalty box, so the referee awarded a direct free kick This incident seemed to inspire the Mohun Bagan side who went all out for the goals

It was Surajit's through pass that Shyam latched on to beat the goalkeeper, Sumit Mukherjee, with a neat placement After the interval, Mohun Bagan added two more to their tally The second goal for the side came from Ulaganathan He ran down the left flank, cut in and from the top of the box sent a right-footer which beat the custodian all ends up as it swerved into the net Deepak Banerjee scored the third goal from a goalmouth scramble

Ulaga seemed to regain some of his form that he had displayed in the beginning of the season Mihir Bose tried hard but Surajit, again, tended to take things easy That Shyam is still a force to reckon with, especially in the heavy, rain-affected pitch was amply proved In the half line, Gautam again disappointed his fans Perhaps he has not yet recovered fully from the harmstring muscle injury he sustained at the beginning of the League The defence was generally solid and it was good to see Pradip Choudhury playing a cool game after a long lay-off

Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee said "Though there were several changes in the side, there was mobility in the team Gautam was injured again during the match, but let us hope it is not very serious" Sankar Banerjee also happens to be the coach of Tollygunge Agragami, but for the day Pradip Dutta, a senior player was in charge of the team Pradip said "We played the 4-3-3 system but our players failed to cope with the pressure, especially since the ground was so heavy If our goalkeeper had been more alert, we could have avoided the last goal, but it would hardly have made any difference to the result of the match"

THE second outing of the week was billed as an important match, because Aryan, over the years, have been known to put up a fight against the big teams Though they have slipped down the League table this year, they are generally considered the fourth team in Calcutta, after the big three There were further changes in the Mohun Bagan side Sujas Bera in place of Deepak Banerjee in the half line, Kesto Mitra for Mihir Bose in the forward line and Biswajit Bose for Shyamal Banerjee in the defence

From the start it looked as if Mohun Bagan wanted to stay on the right track and score a goal or two As has become a custom with the big teams, Mohun Bagan also missed a couple of sitters before they scored their first goal, again through Shyam Thapa He got a free ball inside the Aryan territory and advanced towards the goal Seeing the Aryan custodian, Laxman Belel coming out, he intelligently shot over the goalkeeper's head The ball dipped in like a rainbow and after kissing the crosspiece, entered the net The second goal should have been credited to young Biswajit Bose He took a perfect corner which would have entered the goal, had not a defender sent it back from the line The ball came to Kesto Mitra who shot in through a forest of legs

After the change of ends, Deepak Banerjee replaced an injured Kesto Mitra and Mohun Bagan played in the 4-3-3 formation It did not help at all and though they tried to increase their margin, they made hardly any constructive moves Gautam once again failed Surajit hardly did anything of note except for essaying a couple of centres The two stoppers, Subrata Bhattacharya and Pradip Choudhury played well although they made one mistake that gave the Aryan side a chance But Mohun Bagan custodian, Pratap Ghosh, rushed out and saved the situation

The player who caught the eye of everyone present was Biswajit Bose, the left back The junior India captain displayed real football sense. Except on one occasion, he never misspassed a

Ulaganathan takes a shot past Aryan defender Prangopal Das



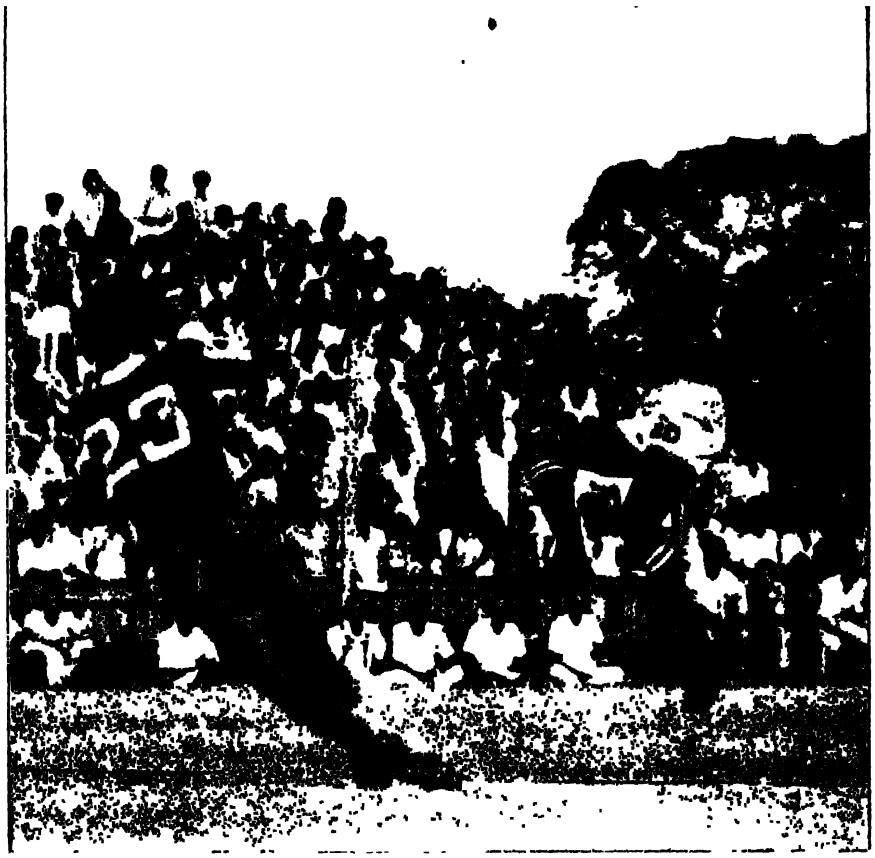
ALOKE MITRA

single ball. His tackling was confident and he was generally a picture of confidence. Another person who played with a vengeance was Sujas Bera. He worked hard and was all over the field. He tried initiating a few moves but was generally very successful in thwarting the opponent attack.

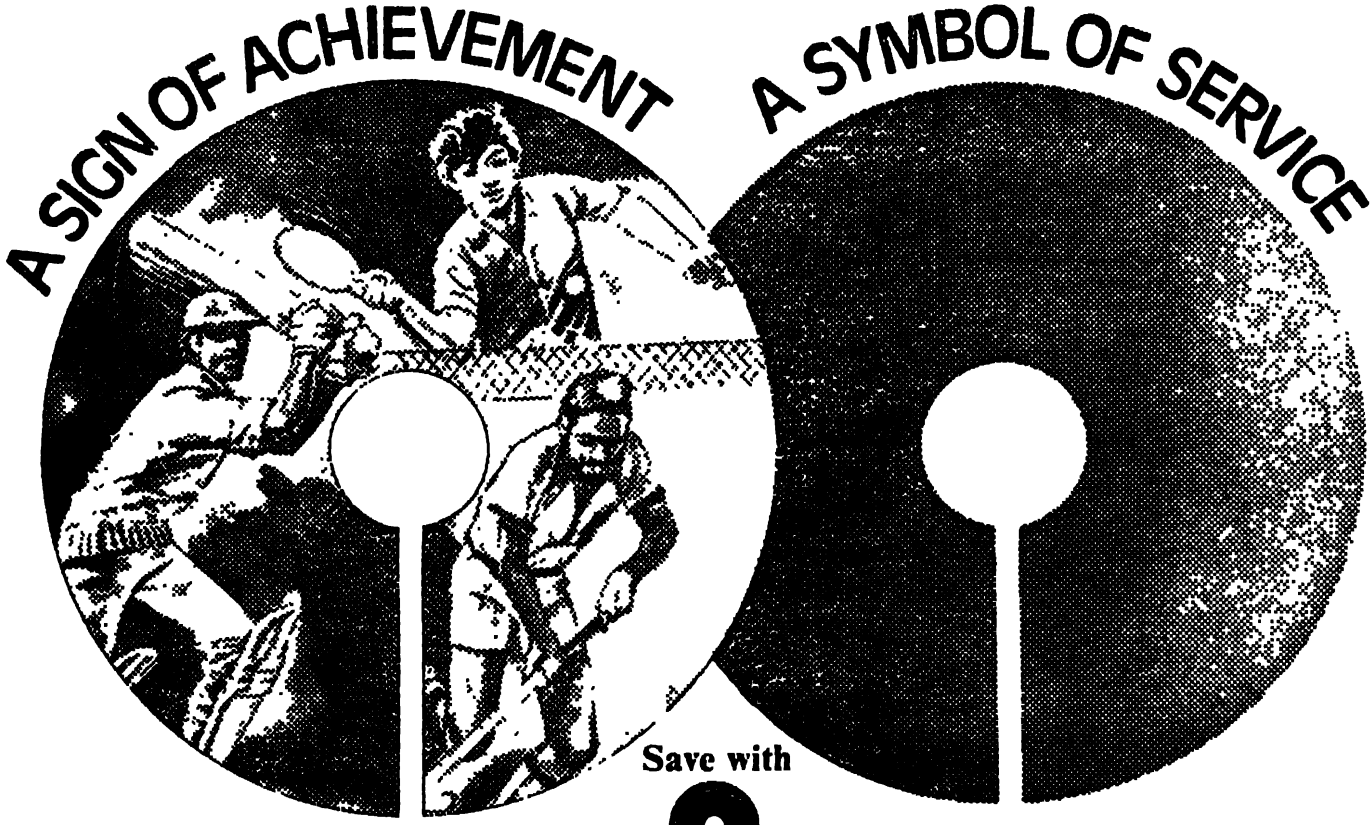
Coach Sankar Banerjee said: "There were a lot of problems in my side. A few of the players are injured, while some are sick. When Kesto was injured, I had no other alternative but to adopt the 4-3-3 formation. Our basic idea in the second half was to maintain the lead we had gained in the first half." Aryan coach Ram Das quite frankly said: "My players failed to perform well. What can one do with a team like this? Most of last year's players have left the side, so it was a problem building a completely new side. The goals were scored off mistakes by my defenders, but my forwards failed to neutralise them."

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING: The home team experienced a severe setback in their quest for the League honours after a lapse of 13 years, when they were held to a goalless draw by Salkia Friends in their only match of the week.They thus lost their second point in the current League, having drawn their earlier match against Mohun Bagan. The gap between these two teams has narrowed, with Mohammedan Sporting just one point ahead of Mohun Bagan

JAYANTA SET

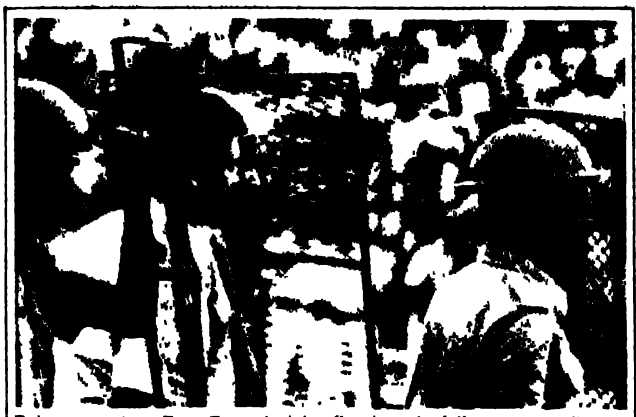


Salkia goalkeeper Gautam Ghosh thwarts a Manash move



CHAITRA.SBI.882

Maidan musings



JAYANTA SETT

Police escorting East Bengal club officials out of the ground after the match against Port Trust

THE situation at the East Bengal ground is getting from bad to worse After their defeat at the hands of Mohammedan Sporting, a sizeable portion of the supporters did not turn up to witness the League matches that were played before the Mohun Bagan match. Those who came, did so in the hope that their favourite team would win the prestigious tie against Mohun Bagan. But when they lost that tie as well, the crowds thinned down further.

There were ugly scenes when the team entered the field under police protection after the Mohun Bagan match. At one stage, the lawmen had to resort to a lathi-charge to disperse members who were creating trouble. Added to their woes, coach Santo Mitra refused to come to the ground for various reasons. Thus, the person in charge of the team was the football secretary, Prasanta Ghosh. It was he who made the necessary substitutions and, in fact, he was about the only official seen on the ground.

In 1979 a similar situation arose when Aroon Ghosh (the coach that year) had relinquished charge of the team. Another ex-player, Peter Thangaraj, had taken over (for Rs 3,000, as reported then) and had even taken the team to play in the Gold Cup tournament at Darjeeling, after which he also left. This year, even since Santo Mitra stopped coming to the ground, a few ex-players have been hovering in and around the tent, in the obvious hope that they will be considered as replacements. One rumour that gained a lot of ground was that Bob Bootland, a Britisher and former coach of Dempo Sports Club, Goa would be appointed. He was seen at the East Bengal ground and even in the building where the three Iranians used to stay. But the cleverest of them all was another ex-player, Dhanraj, who gradually started taking control of the team. He was seen entering with the team, talking with the players and so on.

But what he did not realise was that East Bengal was in for another shock. They lost against Port Trust and there was utter chaos at the ground after the encounter. This defeat was too much for the home team's supporters, the last straw on the camel's back. They attacked the only official present at the ground, football secretary Prasanta Ghosh—with anything they found handy. Even gallery benches were hurled at him. In spite of being escorted by the police, the football secretary was hurt. Even the players had to go back to the tent under police protection.

In contrast, the whole atmosphere at the Mohun Bagan ground has changed completely after their win against East Bengal. In the members' stand, it was quite a common sight to see women watching the match. But, only after one saw a woman with a small child watching the game from the public gallery, did one realise how safe the mother must have felt. It is indeed a good sign, if this sort of atmosphere can be maintained on the Calcutta Maidan.

WHEN will the All India Football Federation take a firm stand? Judging by the way things are going, they seem to have a very difficult task ahead of them. Initially, the second Asiad camp was supposed to be held from July 20. The reason which seems to be most obvious is that the secretary, Ashoke Ghosh, wanted all the important matches of the Calcutta League to finish before the camp started. One must not forget that the last big match was billed for July 18. But due to unavoidable circumstances, the match had to be deferred to July 22. The date of commencement of the camp was also postponed, but on the ground that there was trouble in Secunderabad, where the camp is being held. But was that the real reason? The camp is being held in a military area. From when has a military area become unsafe? It was quite obvious that the AIFF did not want to risk a confrontation with the big clubs.

FOR the camp, four players from Mohun Bagan (Xavier Puis, Arup Das, Biswajit Bhattacharya and Sudip Chatterjee) and two from Mohammedan Sporting (Shabbir Ali and Kartick Sett) were on the list. Just after the camp began, seven more players were called to strengthen the team that is to participate in Merdeka. They are Mihir Bose, Shyamal Banerjee and Compton Dutta from Mohun Bagan, Prasun Banerjee, Bidesh Bose and Bhaskar Ganguly from Mohammedan Sporting and Monoranjan Bhattacharya from East Bengal. They were told to join the camp by July 31. Xavier Pius and Shabbir Ali had sought permission to join the camp with the other seven players. But did that mean Shabbir was given permission to play a match? Technically, he should not have played. After all, he was playing in a League match after the camp was supposed to have started. If he is fit enough to play in the Calcutta League matches, surely he could have joined the camp. When will the AIFF take steps against such offences? Had he been given permission? If so, by whom?



TAPAN DAS

A mother with a small child is seen watching a match at the Mohun Bagan ground



ALOKE MITRA

Off a beautiful corner kick taken by Biswajit (not in picture) the ball went to Kesto Mitra (also not in picture) who scored the second goal for his side

A fair result of the match would have been a victory for Salkia Friends, a team that is a good blend of youth and experience On the other hand, Mohammedan Sporting, who fielded a side without Bidesh Bose and Md Akbar looked a very disjointed lot There was hardly any cohesion amongst the players, and the team never really settled down Bidesh was later introduced to reinforce the attack but even his inclusion made no difference

The Salkia Friends forwards were not awed by the occasion and repeatedly attacked the citadel of the home team Once Sibabrata Nath shot wide with Bhasker Ganguly at his mercy and later, Bibash Panja's shot hit the post after beating Bhasker On numerous occasions Bhaskar saved his team from certain danger Mohammedan Sporting also tried for goals but in their path stood Salkia custodian Gautam Ghosh and stopper Rabin Das, who saved a sure goal late in the match after Gautam was beaten by a Manash Bhattacharya lob

EAST BENGAL: The forwards failed to combine, the defence—except for captain Monoranjan Bhattacharya—cracked up under pressure and East Bengal generally put up a very poor show in the match against Calcutta Gymkhana, which they won by the odd goal in three. With all their shortcomings, the home team could have won more comfortably had their forwards converted the chances that came their way

They scored the first goal, through Jamshid Nasirri, midway through the first half Gathering an Amalraj pass, Sankar Adhikary ran down the flank and centred the ball for Jamshid to place the ball into the net They could have added one more goal had Majid Basker's shot not hit the crosspiece

After the breather, Calcutta Gymkhana began with a new vigour and ultimately drew level. A powerful shot by substitute winger Hiranmoy Mishra hit the crosspiece and Gautam Deb Roy, lying handy, made no mistake with a neat placement. Stung by the reverse, East Bengal got down to serious business and shot into the lead, again through Jamshid. This time it was Joseph Machado who gave him the pass. But even this lead would have been neutralised had not East Bengal custodian Dilip Paul collected a ball from the goalline after Gautam Deb Roy had got the better of Monoranjan

The home team lost yet another match in the League, this time against Port Trust This was their third defeat, following earlier ones against Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan In addition, they had drawn against Railway F C That means they have lost seven points and have fallen way behind in the running for the League honours.

After the initial raids by East Bengal, the Port Trust players gradually settled down and established control of the proceedings Sekhar Chakravarty scored the all-important goal with a beautiful shot from about 35 yards which dipped in, giving custodian Dilip Paul no chance at all Sekhar, who was the livewire of the Railway side in the last Nationals and who had the distinction of scoring a hat-trick in the Santosh Trophy, brought back memories of his display at Rourkela and Cuttack as he never allowed the East Bengal defenders to settle down

East Bengal missed a few chances, the main culprits being Jamshid and Machado Majid, the main schemer of the side, came in after the interval but his entry made no difference as the frontlines continued muffing chances In the dying minutes, one of Majid's pile-drivers was beautifully fisted away by custodian Tanumoy Bose. Veteran Port Trust coach, Achyut Banerjee said: "My players played better, constructive football and won."



JAYANTA SETT

The Port Trust players exult after scoring the match-winner against East Bengal

A Calcutta Gymkhana defender blocking a Majid left-footer



JAYANTA SETT

ASIAN CHESS

Good news for India

TIRUCHY NATESAN PARAMESWARAN had the finest result of his career in the sixth and final leg of the Asian Masters' Chess Circuit sponsored by the Sakthi Sugars In fact, it was the best result ever in our country by any Indian

When I asked him to share his ideas on the ways in which he developed the game, Parameswaran replied, "I love chess, because I manage to express my thoughts and emotions with the utmost precision and this confidence pushes me ahead Two of my brothers, Rameswaran and Sundareswaran are already good at chess Above all, I still remember the inspiration given to me by the Argentine Grandmaster Miguel Najdorf when I held him to a draw at the age of 16 in one of the exhibitions in Madras nearly a decade ago He said I would become a champion too"

This year's Asian Masters' attracted five foreign players, including two title holders—Grandmaster Rosendo C Balinas and international Master Ruben Rodriguez, both of the Philippines The other three were Edhi Handoko of Indonesia, Chia See Cheng of Singapore and Christi Hon of Malaysia They joined eight other Indian players to play a round robin of 13 rounds The Indian side consisted of national champion and international Master Manuel Aaron (Indian Bank, Madras), T N Parameswaran (Air India, Madras), R Ravi Sekhar (Lakshmi Group, Coimbatore), Rafiq Khan (BHEL, Bhopal), P M Thipsay (Bombay), S Nasir Ali and V Koshy (both CRPF, New Delhi) and young D V Prasad of Bangalore



T N Parameswaran deep in meditation

Initially, the organisers had a difficult time getting a third title holder to fulfil the requirements of FIDE regulations in stamping it as a title tournament For an IMS tournament there should be a minimum of three IMS participants But with only Aaron and Rodriguez in, the third one was uncertain even after the start Mr Florencio Campomanes, the FIDE deputy president based in Manila, first suggested Rico Yap Mascarinas and it was easy for this player to fly from Moscow to Delhi But it happened otherwise The Filipino was to arrive from Moscow only after completing a tournament there Then the second choice fell on Domingo Ramos, another Filipino IMS Asian junior champion Counting on this, India's second international Master, V Ravikumar who received several invitations from Europe was never intercepted and was given a farewell long before this Asian meet

This sudden turn of events caused a rush in Madras and Manila chess circles. Messages went across the sea Mr Campo, the most vociferous in the Philippines Chess Federation, and organiser of the Karpov-Korchnoi title bout in Baguio City, rose to the occasion in sending Asia's second Grandmaster Balinas himself Meanwhile, it was also ascertained from FIDE that R Ravi Sekhar, who had already gained his two IMS norms in the previous legs in Djakarta and Kuala Lumpur, has to be enrolled as a full-fledged title holder only after the confirmation from the FIDE Congress during the third week of July in Atlanta (USA)

Further, as the cut off dates for the FIDE rating list are the first of January and July every year, the players could not be rated by current ratings till the third round At last the FIDE rating came and Balinas as well The lone Grandmaster in the Masters' was rather forced to finish his pending games and there were occasions when he had to play two games a day

The first round itself saw a battle royal between the two available international Masters, Aaron and Rodriguez The Indian master with precision play and 58 moves came out successful Thipsay also registered his first win in the first round itself when he defeated the highly rated Edhi Handoko (2405) of Indonesia

At the end of the first half both Nasir Ali and Parameswaran were in the running for their first IMS norm of eight and a half points Similarly, Thipsay and Koshy had slim chances to gain IMS horm

P M Thipsay of India — keen to be a Fide Master soon



International Master Manuel Aaron of India





The young giant killer D V Prasad



R Ravi Sekhar invoking a brainwave

In the crucial eighth round, Thipsay emerged leader with four and a half points only to lose to young D V Prasad in the ninth round This young giant-killer also salvaged half-a-point from Rafiq Khan, the former national champion Not stopping at that, he defeated Aaron in the final round to reach five points Taking his cue from this, Rodriguez, with 6½ out of 9, consolidated his lead But T. N Parameswaran, who was only 2½ in six rounds, dashed to reach 7½ winning all the games on his way.

With a few hundred spectators watching with rapt attention, the crucial match between the leaders in the Slav defence was adjourned with Parameswaran to seal the move After the sealing time was announced, the spectators were reluctant to disperse as if they wanted to know the outcome immediately At the time of adjournment, Parameswaran's queen, rook and knight were focussing on his opponent's king for a possible attack Within seven moves after resumption, the queens were off the board But Rodriguez overstepped the time limit of 56 moves with two moves in hand Parameswaran, with this win, bagged not only the first prize equivalent to $600 (US) out of a prize fund of US $2000, but also got his first IM norm of 8½ points (a minimum of 67½ per cent in the 12 games he played)

Ruben Rodriguez of Philippines studies the board with rapt attention



Grandmaster Rosendo C Balinas planning a move



In the chess world, nowadays, it is very rare to find a man climbing the ladder like a tightrope walker. Rather, a desperado mission achieved in a grand style.

Despite the defeat at the hands of Parameswaran in the last round, Rodriguez finished second while R. Ravi Sekhar with an identical 7½ points was placed third on account of his minus score against the sharer As far as the prize was concerned, they took an equal share of the $700 (US) prize money

The triumph of the Indian players did not stop with Parameswaran Both Rafiq Khan and Thipsay, with 6½ points each (a minimum of 53 per cent in 12 rounds) also got the FIDE Master norm. The FIDE Master title is a recent innovation by the world chess body to identify above-average players in international events But all these players including Parameswaran should repeat similar performances to claim their respective titles

R Ravi Sekhar won the overall Grand Prix prize of US $600 In the previous legs, he won the second position in Baguio City (Philippines), outright first in Djakarta (Indonesia), sixth in Singapore and again first in Kuala Lumpur and finally third in Madras Looking at this performance, Ravi Sekhar is undoubtedly the best of the Indian players today If he puts in a little extra homework, he definitely collect his first IM norm in the International Chess Congress to be held in Bangalore during July-August Both Parameswaran and Thipsay can also get the titles of IM and FIDE Master respectively in Bangalore

Besides actual conduct of the tournament, the organisers had two other plus points on their side Within a short period they made all possible arrangements to have a special postal cancellation to commemorate this Asian meet on the final day Secondly, the results of daily games were printed overnight and released the very next day On the final day, all these daily bulletins with a cross table were made into a booklet and sold as hot cakes at Rs 6 per copy. Usually, in an international tournament the games are either cyclostyled or xeroxed

Mr N. Mahalingam, president of the Tamil Nadu Chess Association and also the newly-elected vice-president of the All India Chess Federation, gave a purse of Rs. 5000 to R Ravi Sekhar on his obtaining the IM title. Young D. V. Prasad, who caused many upsets in the final stage, received Rs. 500 on being adjudged the most promising player

Mr R M Veerappan, Minister for Information, Government of Tamil Nadu, announced a cash prize of Rs. 1000 to T. N Parameswaran for having won the final leg of the Asian Masters'.

V. KAMASWARAN, Madras

The Patna -Jamshedpur cricket venue battle

THE recent controversy over shifting the venue of the MCC vs East Zone match from Jamshedpur to Patna is not just a polarised issue It does not only involve the two rival camps of the Patna District Cricket Association (PDCA) and the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) Rather, the controversy has also touched the hearts of thousands of cricket lovers in Patna The allegations and counter allegations of both associations are continuing, albeit on a lower key than before

Patna has long been deprived of the honour of staging any cricket match against a visiting team When the PDCA approached the BCA for permission to hold the East Zone-West Indies match at the Moinul Haq Stadium at Patna some time in April or May 1978, the BCA agreed to the request on condition that the PDCA pay a sum of two lakh rupees as royalty to the BCA

This figure was quoted over and above a sum of one and a quarter lakh rupees as capitation fees to the Board of Control for Cricket in India Dr Prasad, the Secretary of the PDCA, did not find any justification in the amount demanded by the BCA, and was reported to have told the latter's officials "Let us share the profits, if any, but why fix such an abnormal pre-condition? We are just trying to find our feet"

Later, the PDCA decided to make a formal request to the Board of Control for Cricket for permission to hold the match at Patna Its secretary insisted that he should also accompany the then BCA Secretary Mr Prem Sagar, for talks with the Board President, Mr Chinnaswamy Thereafter, the BCA Secretary, Mr Prem Sagar and the PDCA Secretary, Dr Prasad met the Board President at the Wankhede Stadium, Bombay, on September 25, 1978 When the Board President was shown the photographs of the Moinul Haq Stadium of Patna he allegedly asked why Mr Sagar had not broached the subject before

Mr Chinnaswamy seemed impressed by the facilities offered by the stadium and agreed immediately to hold the match involving the Pakistan Under-19 team at Patna The match was played there on February 7 and 8, 1979, as per Mr Chinnaswamy's assurance Mr Chinnaswamy also told Mr Prem Sagar that if the BCA wanted to bid for matches at Patna, they should mention it beforehand to avoid any confusion or embarrassment

Dr Prasad, however feels that since there were no representatives from the PDCA to accompany the BCA officials for discussions on the controversial issue of the change of venue for the MCC-East Zone match they misrepresented the facts about the Moinul Haq Stadium Wicket

The BCA President, Mr Homi Bodhanwalla, on the other hand, disclosed in a Press conference, held at Jamshedpur on July 19, that Dr Jagannath Mishra, the Chief Minister of Bihar, had expressed his opinion that Patna, like Jamshedpur, should also stage matches involving foreign teams

Thus, on April 27, Mr Russy Mody, the patron of the BCA, met the Chief Minister at Patna and informed him of the State association's decision to accept his proposal, and a letter was also sent to the Secretary of the PDCA informing him of the BCA's decision

Following the discussions between Mr Mody and the Chief Minister of Bihar, a high-level meeting between the State Government and Bihar Cricket officials was held at Patna on May 21, 1981 Apart from the discussion on such issues as the pitch, the outfield, the pavilion and the scoreboard, an organising committee for the match at Patna was also constituted In order to ensure that all preparations are completed before the arrival of the MCC team in Patna, it was agreed that TISCO would prepare the design, submit an estimate and get the job completed as soon as possible after the estimates were approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Meanwhile, the MCC observer, Mr Peter Lush, who came to India to investigate the ground conditions, reportedly submitted in his findings to the authorities in England that the Moinul Haq Stadium at Patna could at best be suitable for football or hockey, but not for cricket. The MCC representative also opined that the authorities in England should have been informed of the proposed change of venue of the match at least six months earlier.

Mr Bodhanwalla said that he had personally informed Mr Wankhede at Srinagar of the BCA's proposal regarding the change of venue. The latter suggested that Mr Bodhanwalla see him in Bombay in early June to discuss the matter Accordingly, the two met at Bombay, but Mr Wankhede regretted the inability of the Board to shift the venue from Jamshedpur to Patna

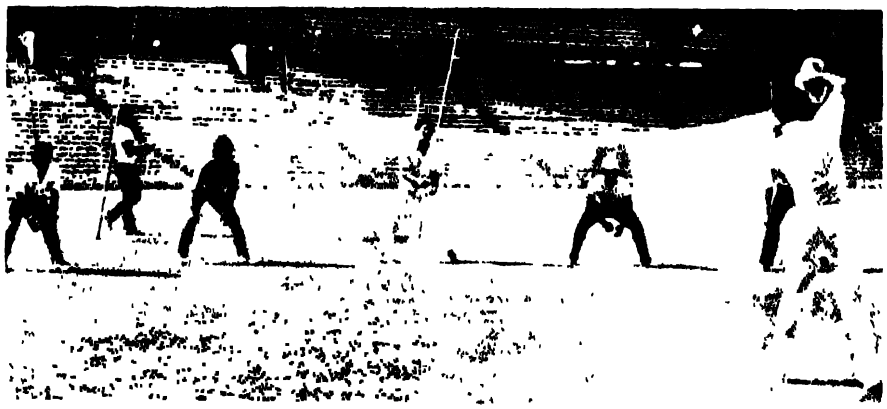
He said, "Our committee as well as the authorities in England will not be disposed to undertake the responsibility of playing on a wicket and at a venue where real first class matches have not been played, although you have given the assurance that ground and other arrangements at Patna will be fully taken care of"

With regard to the charge that "real first class games" have not been staged there, let it be put on record that the Bihar vs Orissa Ranji Trophy match was played at this venue last November, when both batsmen and bowlers experienced equal success While Milan Dutta scored a century on his debut, pacemen Randhir Singh and Shekhar Sinha and spinners Paramjit Singh and Venkatram captured a number of wickets Earlier, in February 1979, when the Pakistan Under-19 team took on the East Zone side, the game continued in spite of rainy conditions throughout the duration of the match and the wicket behaved well Moreover, the Pakistanis opined that the pitch of the Moinul Haq Stadium was more lively than that of the grassless, barren Keenan Stadium.

The officials of BCA are afraid that once Patna gains fame as a new centre of cricket, Jamshedpur will naturally be relegated to second place in Bihar. It is precisely this that they want to avoid

By refusing to put Patna on the Indian cricket map, the BCA is only proving its own shortsightedness A time will come when matches will have to be played in Patna as Jamshedpur's Keenan Stadium cannot accommodate more than 10,000 people Although enthusiasm for cricket among the Jamshedpur public is tremendous, the city lacks first class hotel facilities and is not as well connected by air and rail as Patna is Since Jamshedpur can never claim a place among Test centres in India, the case of Patna should have been considered with a sense of reality.

PREM KUMAR, Patna



ANAND SHARMA

Kallicharan brushes up his team's fielding their game against East Zone was ultimately played at the Keenan Stadium

Sportspeople

On the road to recovery

THE comeback of *Angel Mary Joseph* has been delayed by new health problems. About two months ago the national women's pentathlon champion was admitted to New Delhi's prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment of spinal trouble which not only threatened to end her athletic career but could also have rendered a cripple After six weeks of lumbar traction and TNS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) she was pronounced fit by the neurological specialist at the institute and asked to resume training. But the pain still persisted After a new round investigation it was discovered that she was also suffering from stones in the kidney The urological specialist attending her has advised her to stay on at the AIIMS for a few more weeks

When the neuro-surgeons asked her to resume training in mid-June, the Delhi public school promptly placed its ground and every other facility at the disposal of the 24-year-old Welfare Inspector from Southern Railway. Her latest ailment was discovered when she noticed blood in the urine after strenuous training sessions.

Two months ago when the Press brought Angel Mary's problems to the notice of the public there were assurances of help from various places, including Mr Kedar Pandey, the Railways Minister, who sanctioned Rs 4,200, which amounted to the bill for six weeks' stay at the institute The Indian Olympic Association responded with a cheque for Rs 500 and Mr Buta Singh, President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, Chairman of the Asian Games Special Committee and Minister of State for Shipping and Transport, also assured all help. In a letter to the Ministry of Railways, the Education Ministry had also expressed its concern It is hoped the authorities will be able to find their way to foot the bill for Angel's extended stay at the institute Letters of concern alone are not enough

A disciplined government servant, Angel knows where to draw the line when talking to reporters "You are not supposed to be here," she told this journalist when he visited her to find out how she had been progressing at the AIIMS But she was disarmed when told that journalists don't take orders. She would talk only athletics, but nothing about the mounting bills at the AIIMS where a room in a private ward costs Rs 100 a day

Angel is quite confident of picking up her best form once she leaves the AIIMS completely cured She is also quite optimistic about her medal chances at next year's Asian Games

The pentathlon has been replaced by the heptathlon, but "no problem," she says "The two additional events—200 metres and javelin—are not new to me," explains India's leading all-round female athlete Very few remember that as a 17-year-old she had won a javelin silver medal at the 1974 national meet at Jaipur Her best javelin effort is 43 metres and her fastest 200 metres timing is 26 6 seconds

Angel has missed the Hyderabad coaching camp, but she hopes to be able to join the next one



News round-up

Lawn hockey developing in USSR

MOSCOW: The Soviet men's and women's lawn hockey championships got under way earlier this year It is the twelfth such tournament for men, and the third for women Though lawn hockey is still new sport in the Soviet Union, the season started in an atmosphere of optimism.

The game's progress in such a short period of time in the USSR has forced connoisseurs everywhere in the world to sit back and wonder In reports on the 1980 Olympic tournament, they note that among all the national associations making up the International Hockey Federation (FIH), that of the Soviet Union chalked up the greatest progress in this outdoor pastime At the FIH Congress in Brussels last August, both the men's and women's teams from the USSR were unanimously selected among the participants for the main international fixtures in 1981

The Soviet players proved that the Brussels decision was correct This year's world championships in Buenos Aires saw the Soviet women's team take the bronze medal, finishing third behind West Germany and Holland, the two time world champions

The Soviet men's team won the Intercontinental Cup in Kuala Lumpur In this qualifying tournament for the world championships in Bombay in December, the Soviet players defeated Italy, Japan and Zimbabwe in group games and went on to gain the upper hand in the finals over New Zealand, the Montreal Olympic champions and Malaysia

A sizeable contribution to the successful performance of the Soviet lawn hockey selects is being made by the players of the Central Asian Republics, where the pastime is very popular For instance, the women's team from the Uzbek city of Andizhan was outstanding in the last world title meet On the other hand, Dynamo players of Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, are the backbone of the USSR men's team

Getting back to the USSR League story, six teams—two women's and four men's—are fielded by the Central Asian Republics in the now-started championships Their challengers are from Moscow, Sverdlovsk, Kiev, Baku and other cities, which proves that lawn hockey enjoys a lot of attention in the Soviet Union The overall control of the sport in the country is in the hands of the National Hockey Federation, which became a member of FIH in 1970 and has been active in its work ever since.

The system for promoting the national championships is being improved all the time Close attention is also being paid to the involvement of even greater numbers of young people in the game

As in previous times, the current Soviet championships will provide the players with excellent training for forthcoming major international meets of the year The women, for instance, will compete in the socialist countries' Friendship Cup tournament in Czechoslovakia, and the men will appear in a similar fixture in Leningrad The latter is regarded as a stage of preparation for the Bombay World championships, where the Soviet team will face India, Pakistan, Australia and other strong sides

B SURKOV

Steve Cram, 20 from Hebburn the winner of this years Bannister Mile is a sports man who takes equal interest in the theoretical side of sports He is currently taking a B A degree in sports studies at Newcastle Polytechnic



Punjab's hockey problem

CHANDIGARH: Punjab achieved a record, having fielded as many as 54 players in the Junior National Hockey Championships held at Kolhapur earlier this year And the players were borrowed from various other teams, the Punjab team being hit by a 'tremendous talent drain' as team manager Swinder Singh Sami put it in his report The team, however, did well to finish third

He says that the Punjab players were playing for the Combined Universities, All India Schools' eleven and some other institutions, and their performance was indeed satisfying As a result, there was a feeling of frustration among sports lovers of the State that Punjab had been deprived of the services of a number of very good players of its own Nonetheless, ten players, from Punjab had been selected among the 44 probables for the Junior World Hockey Cup which is a remarkable achievement

Though confronted with the difficult task of selecting, and later coaching a team without most of the promising juniors, who had been included in the Combined Universities and All-India Schools' teams, the selectors and coaches indeed built up a formidable side George (Jullundur) was selected as the captain, but only be lured away later by the Combined Universities when the team was getting ready to leave for Kolhapur Mr Sami says that feelings of frustration became intense when it was found that arrivals Uttar Pradesh had not spared even a single player for any other team

Punjab was drawn to meet the All India Schools' eleven in the pool, Patiala in the quarter finals and the Combined Universities in the semi-finals About the venue, Mr Sami said that Kolhapur was not the proper place for a national meet, both because of its remoteness and lack of public interest in hockey The playing conditions were not up to standard, the ground dusty and bumpy and the lodging arrangements poor The selector and the manager of the team also recommended that the Punjab Government and the sports department take more interest in the Junior National Championships There is duplicative verbiage which often results in lack of coordination The PHA should be concerned in this matter and at least 44 good players should be annually indentified and made to stay under the charge of the best of coaches As soon as they graduate to senior level they should be kept in one college They should also play the maximum number of all India tournaments to gain maturity and experience This will enable both the senior and junior teams to bring laurels for the State

SANJEEV KUMAR

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

301 for one— all out 350

Not quite as catastrophic as Australia's nose dive from 305 for three wickets to 310 all out in the first Test against Pakistan in 1979 but nevertheless devastating was a Pakistan collapse against India in a Bombay Test in 1960. Against the Pakistanis, in Melbourne, the Australian fall of wickets read 49, 109, 128, 305, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310, 310. Against the Indians in Bombay the Pakistanis' fall of wickets read 55, 301, 302, 303, 318, 319, 321, 331, 349, 350.

Australia in 1979 lost seven wickets for five runs, Pakistan in 1960 lost nine wickets for 193 reaching 300 in Melbourne. Australia lost three wickets to Pakistan, in reaching 300 in Bombay. Pakistan lost only one wicket to India. The Bombay Test was drawn, the scores being Pakistan 350 and 106 for four, India 449 for nine wickets declared.

Before the Pakistanis collapsed to lose nine wickets for 49 two of their batsmen put on 246 for the second wicket, so establishing a record for Pakistan in Test cricket. The Pakistan second-wicket Test record today is held by Zaheer Abbas (274) and Mushtaq Mohammad (100)– 291 against England at Birmingham in 1971. Mushtaq also played in the 1960 Bombay Test, as did his brother Hanif. One of the brothers partnered Saeed Ahmed in the record second wicket stand that preceded the sensational Pakistan collapse.

QUESTION 1 Which brother?

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Two dramatic collapses by Australia, each involving seven wickets – for 12 runs and 15 runs – occurred at Trent Bridge in 1953 and Brisbane in 1979 respectively. In Melbourne against Pakistan in 1979 Graham Yallop's team lost their last seven wickets while adding five runs, at Trent Bridge Lindsay Hassett's team lost their last six wickets to England for the same pathetic addition to their score.

In the Australian Broadcasting Commission book *"Bradman to Chappell"*, Lindsay Hassett wrote "The first Test was interrupted several times by rain. For the most part the atmosphere was abnormally heavy, the wicket was damp and whenever the ball was dry the bowlers were quickly in charge. Australia won the toss and were assisted by showers that put England's bowlers at a disadvantage during the stop-start procedure. These conditions continued until lunch time on the second day when Australia took their score to 244 for four."

During the lunch break the ground dried out and an English medium-pacer produced a superb spell of bowling that destroyed the remaining Australian batsmen. At one stage 237 for three wickets, Australia were all out for 249. From 38.3 overs the medium-pacer had taken 7/55. When England batted, they, too, found the conditions difficult and at stumps had lost six wickets in taking their score to 92. In a sensational afternoon's play 12 wickets had fallen for 98 runs. Dismissing England for 144 (Lindwall 5/57), Australia took a first innings lead of 105 but again the medium pacer struck. During periods of play broken by showers and bad light, he even bettered his first innings performance to take 7/44 from 17.2 overs as Australia were bundled out for 123. With England needing 229 to win, the stage was set for a thrilling finish but bad weather intervened again. The match was drawn, with England 120 for the loss of one wicket in their second innings.

QUESTION 2 Who was the English bowler who wrecked Australia's chances with match figures of 14/99 from 55.5 overs?

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Another dramatic collapse—this time by England—occurred in one of the most exciting matches in Test history, the fourth Test of the 1961 series against Australia, at Old Trafford. Needing 256 to win in 230 minutes, England, 30 minutes before tea on the final day, were 150 for one. They were all out for 201.

England were routed by Australia's captain, Richie Benaud, who, in a magnificent exhibition, took 6/70 off 32 overs, including a deadly spell of 5/13 in 25 balls. Despite the tall order of scoring at more than a run a minutes, England were hot favourites to win when a brisk opening partnership of 40 from Geoff Puller and Raman Subba Row was followed by a blazing innings from their No 3. Driving with tremendous power and cutting and hooking splendidly, he scored 76 in 84 minutes and with Subba Row put on 110 in that time. Suddenly the position changed. Benaud switched to bowling around the wicket, aiming his leg breaks at the rough of Freddie Trueman's footmarks.

England resumed after tea needing 93 in 85 minutes. But John Murray, superbly caught by Bob Simpson off Benaud for four, and Ken Barrington, trapped lbw by Ken Mackay for five, fell for the addition of only eight runs. England had no longer any thought of winning– only of playing desperately for a draw. David Allen stayed 28 minutes for 10 before Simpson produced another acrobatic effort to catch him off Benaud. It was all over when Alan Davidson knocked over Brian Statham's middle stump. Australia had won with 20 minutes to spare, gaining their first Test victory at Old Trafford since 1902 and retaining the Ashes.

Despite persistent pain from a shoulder injury, Benaud had registered his best performance against England. Benaud himself described the spectacular know by England's No 3 as "one of the finest short innings ever played". Wisden said it was "a glorious display of controlled hitting."

QUESTION 3 Who won Benaud's high tribute?

****

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Len Hutton in the first Test of the 1954-55 series—a series England were to win 3-1. Heaviest scores for Australia were Neil Harvey 162 and Arthur Morris 153. England bowling: Alec Bedser 1/131, Brian Statham 2/123, Frank Tyson 1/160, Trevor Bailey 3/140, Bill Edrich 0/28.

2 Richie Benaud, in the fifth Test, 1958-59. Taking 4/43 and 1/14, he finished the rubber with 31 wickets.

3 Ray Lindwall, who took 1/36 and 3/73. His fellow pace bowlers in the Melbourne Test were Ian Meckiff (2/57 and 0/13), Alan Davidson (3/38 and 2/95) and Gordon Rorke (0/23 and 3/41).

4 Peter May, fourth Test, 1958-59. Australia's top scorer was Colin McDonald (172), his opening partner being Jim Burke (66). Benaud took 5/91 and 4/82.

5 Ray Illingworth, in the drawn third Test of the 1972 series, at Trent Bridge, and abandoned 1970-71 Test, in Melbourne, and Mike Denness, in Adelaide in the fifth Test of the 1974-75 series, which England lost by 163 runs, and at Edgbaston in the first Test, 1975, which England lost by an innings and 85 runs.

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

In which Test did the following brothers play together for the first time?

1 A. G. Kripal Singh and A G Milkha Singh;
2 S Amarnath and M Amarnath,
3 S Wazir Ali and S Nazir Ali,
4 L. Amar Singh and L Ramji Singh,
5 C K Nayudu and C S Nayudu,
6 I M Chappell and G S Chappell,
7 D R Hadlee and R J Hadlee,
8 Hanif Mohammad, Mushtaq Mohammad and Sadiq Mohammad,
9 J B Stollmeyer and V H Stollmeyer,
10 P M Pollock and R G Pollock.

ANSWERS

1 1st Test vs England, 1961.
2 1st Test vs New Zealand, 1976.
3 (Only) Test vs England, 1932.
4 1st Test vs England, 1933.
5 2nd Test vs England, 1934.
6 2nd Test vs England, 1970.
7 1st Test vs England, 1973.
8 1st Test vs New Zealand, 1969 (Only occasion).
9 3rd Test vs England, 1939.
10 1st Test vs Australia, 1963.

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Sanjaya Daga, Calcutta
Q. Is an appeal necessary, when a batsman is bowled?
A Yes, if the batsman does not walk away even on being bowled Without appeal, an umpire shall not give his decision

Isharatun Nabi, Patna
Q. While running between the wickets, if the non-striker falls on the stumps of the striking batsman's stumps is he out?
A. No, he is not out Only the striker-batsman can be out, hit wicket if he breaks his own wicket in the act of playing the ball and neither batsman is run out, if he breaks any wicket while running between the wickets

Ajay Kumar, Hazaribagh.
Q. When, where and against whom did Sandeep Patil begin his Test career?
A. In the 5th Test vs Pakistan at Madras in 1979-80

Sanjay Parkhe, Ahmednagar.
Q. What is Kallicharran's highest score in Tests?
A. 187, made against India in the first Test at Bombay in 1978-79.

Salim Ahmed, Bangladesh.
Q. What are Wasim Raja and Javed Miandad's Test records?
A. Wasim Raja has aggregated 2,001 runs in 61 innings (with 10 unbeaten innings) of 37 Tests and has captured 30 wickets for 969 runs; Javed Miandad has made 2,663 runs in 34 Tests with 206 as his highest score in 7 centuries.



H. Jwalapathi, Bangalore.
Q. Has any wicket-keeper scored a double century in Tests?
A. Yes, Taslim Arif of Pakistan made 210 n o. against Australia at Faisalabad in 1979-80.
Q. Who has scored the maximum number of sixes in an innings, of a match, in Tests and in first class innings as well?
A. W R. Hammond of England hit a maximum of 10 sixes in an innings in the Auckland Test against New Zealand in 1932-33 and in first class cricket, J R Reid's 15 sixes for Wellington against Northern Districts at Wellington in 1962-63 is a world record

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 111

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A	S	T	R	O		M		G	E	N	E	

Nirmal Kumar Lakham, Jaipur
Q What is T Emmett's Test cricket record?
A T Emmett played in 7 Tests for England in which he made 160 runs at an average of 13 33 per innings He also captured 9 wickets conceding 284 with best figures of 7 for 68

Shankar Mazumdar, Gauhati
Q. What is the Test career record of Cyril Washbrook Which country did he represent?
A Playing for England, Cyril Washbrook scored 2569 runs in 37 Tests at an average of 42 81 with 6 centuries

Sanjeeb Banerjee, Sahajahanpur.
Q What were the fall of wickets in the 1st innings of India in the 4th Test vs West Indies at Kingston in 1975-76
A 1 136, 2 205, 3 216, 4 280, 5/306, 6/306

S Hasan Farooque, Darbhanga
Q What are the Test records of Asif Masood and Pervez Sajjad of Pakistan in Tests?
A. Asif Masood scored 93 runs in 16 Tests @ 10 33 and captured 38 wickets @ 41 26 with 5 for 111 as his best bowling analysis Pervez Sajjad captured 59 wickets conceding 1410 runs at an average of 23 89 per wicket, 7 wickets for 74 was his career best bowling
Q Who is the fastest century maker from India in Tests?
A. D N Sardesai, who completed his century in 127 minutes in 4th Test vs New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65

Sanjay Sharma, Howrah.

Q. Who were the rival captains in the match when Sunil Gavaskar made his Test debut?

A Ajit Wadekar of India and Garfield Sobers of West Indies

Kalyan Kumar Das, Purulia.

Q. Who holds the world record in scoring most half centuries in Tests?

A Geoff Boycott, who in 98 Tests has hit 39 half centuries, besides his 20 hundreds

Pijush Kanti Chakraborty, Bangladesh.

Q. Who was the most successful bowler in the Jubilee Test in Bombay?

A Ian Botham of England who captured 6 wickets for 58 and again 7 wickets for 48 earning the match figures of 13 for 106

Q. Who is the most successful bowler in Ranji Trophy?

A. Rajinder Goel, who in 101 Ranji Trophy matches has captured 492 wickets

Abhi Kanti Dutta Mazumder, Pandua

Q. When, where and against whom did G R Vishwanath make his Test debut?

A In the second Test vs Australia at Kanpur in 1969-70

S Laxmi, Madras, Madhu Bangal

Q Who has scored maximum number of runs in an over?

A. 25 runs were scored off a 8-ball over by B Sutcliffe and R W Blair of New Zealand and 24 runs were scored off a 6-ball over by J F M Morrison of New Zealand as well as by A M E Roberts of West Indies

Q. An Australian over consists of how many balls?

A. From 1876-77 to 1887-88 4-ball over, 1891-92 to 1920-21 6-ball over, 1924-25 8-ball over, 1928-29 to 1932-33 6-ball over, 1936-37 to 1979-80 8-ball over and in 1980-81 6-ball over

Gautam Tagore, Calcutta.

Q Who is the quickest 7,000-run maker in Tests? In how many Tests has he scored them?

A G S Sobers of West Indies, who completed 7,000 runs in 79 Tests

S. K Nagaraj, Bangalore.

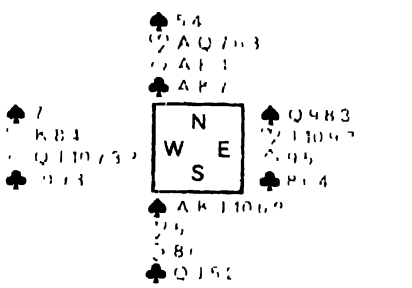
Q. Can a substitute keep wickets, in case the regular 'keeper is injured in the middle of the match?

A Yes, with the consent of the opposite team's captain

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

With one round to go, the scores of the two leading pairs in a recent competition were tied. They along came the deal, with both pairs of contenders holding the North-South cards.



North dealt at love all, and this was the bidding at one table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♡	pass
1♠	pass	3NT	pass
4♣	pass	4♡	pass
4♠	pass	5♠	pass
6♠	pass	pass	pass

well and [illegible] East led the ♡Q. Declarer won in the hand, played off one top trump to offer up the possibility of East ducking the singleton Queen, and crossed to dummy with a diamond to take a trump finesse. The finesse won, but West showed out. Now, with no more trumps in dummy, declarer had to rely on the trump in the short hand to establish the long diamond.

South ruffed the ♣A and ruffed a heart. Next came a club to dummy's ♣K and another heart ruff to bring down West's King. This still wasn't enough, and declarer had to finish by cashing the ♠Q and ♣7, although 12 tricks were collected once the position of the ♣Q was known. Overtrumping with the ♠K would have sacrificed the overtrick, but would also have given the defence a trump trick.

South, tarted by leading to the ♠A and ruffing a heart, Next came a club to dummy's ♣K and another heart ruff to bring down West's King. This still wasn't enough, and declarer had to finish by cashing the ♠Q and ♣7, although 12 tricks were collected once the position of the ♣Q was known. Overtrumping with the ♠K would have sacrificed the overtrick, but would also have given the defence a trump trick.

At the other table, South, [illegible] but [illegible] 3NT. East led ♡4, and declarer took a heart round [illegible] spades. When this won, he was home and dry [illegible] and an even better score.

[illegible] to go trumps, hoping for six tricks in [illegible] and like the [illegible], the score [illegible] five tricks correct as [illegible] ♠Q [illegible] Queen with the [illegible] trumps, two [illegible] change [illegible] the Queen may [illegible] single [illegible] card, and not, a trump [illegible] play may still [illegible].

Last week's quiz: [illegible] conventions is played, for example [illegible] 1♠, 1NT 2♣, there are [illegible] bought in to show [illegible] maximum (8-10 points). He may [illegible] 2NT, or bid 2NT with 4♡ (to show a [illegible] suit) and 3♠ (to show [illegible] support for partner's suit). [illegible] invited to bid 3NT, the only bid to show a maximum, there is no further way to explore the possibility [illegible].

This week's quiz: [illegible] all at love, partner [illegible] ♠1 [illegible] ♠A [illegible] ♠A K Q J 6 4 3 ♣x. He hears the negative reply of 2NT from North: what should he bid next?

Chess

Leon Taki

[illegible] with the [illegible] of its 30th volume, [illegible] has [illegible] but [illegible] another absorbing [illegible]. This one, published [illegible], is [illegible] in Spanish, but [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the year-an [illegible] position from the [illegible] would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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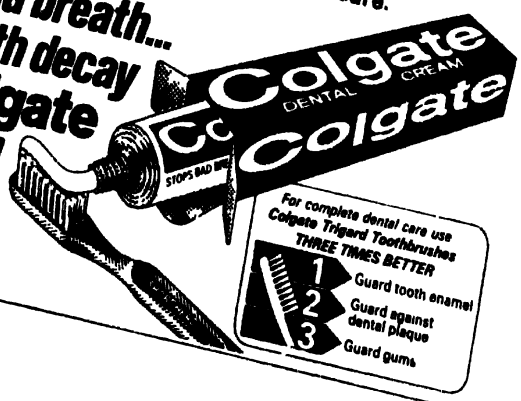


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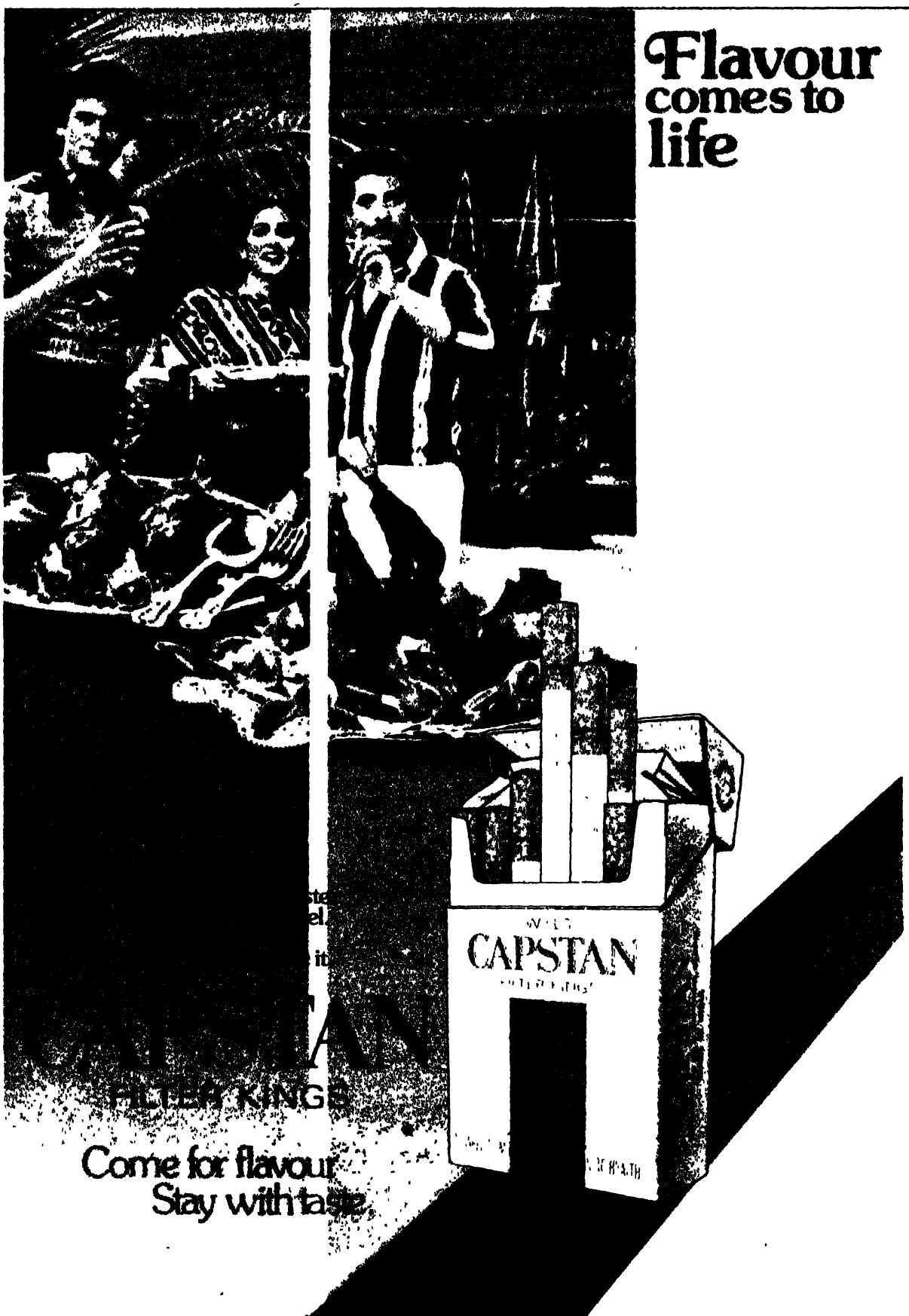
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Sportsworld

FOURTH TEST:
Another nail in Australia's coffin

TONY LEWIS reports from Edgbaston



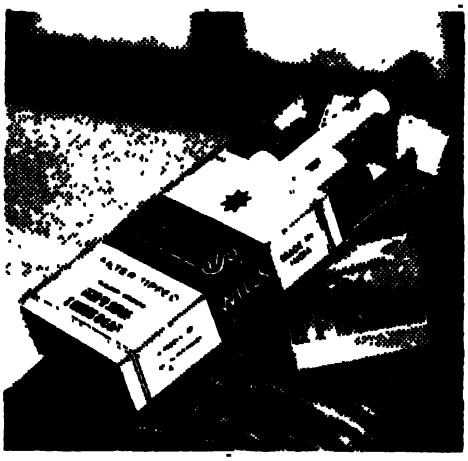
JOHN BENAUD :
Gavaskar should tighten the reins



EXCLUSIVE:
ASHOK KUMAR assesses the Indian hockey team



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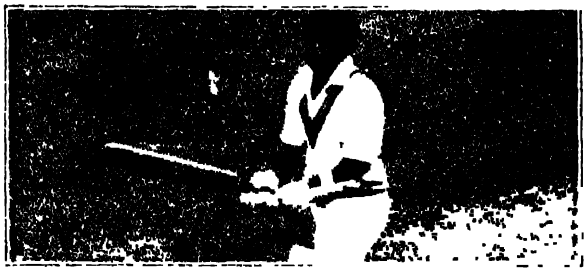
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Letters to the Editor

On Bedi's retirement

TO hold Gavaskar responsible for Bedi's exit from India's Test team smacks of Mr Wadhwaney's deep prejudice against Gavaskar To defame Gavaskar, he has levelled some false accusations against him and the players of Bombay and West Zone

It is widely known that despite Bedi's dismal performance Gavaskar, purely for sentimental reasons, included him in the team in a number of Tests But how long could he have done so in the light of Bedi's disastrous performance? Eventually, he had to drop Bedi in favour of Dilip Doshi and everyone is well aware of Doshi's magnificent performance on his Test debut

Again to accuse Gavaskar of not being loyal to Bedi in the 22 Tests in which Bedi led India, indicates Bedi's cynical disposition Sunil has extended the utmost co-operation not only to Bedi but to every captain under whom he has played In fact, some of his best batting performances in the West Indies, Australia and Pakistan came when Bedi was at the helm of affairs K R Wadhwaney has accused Gavaskar of not co-operating with Bedi, but he has possibly forgotten that it was Bedi who did not co operate with Ajit Wadekar during India's tour of England in 1974

Wadhwaney laments that national and international sportsmen of the calibre, stature, dedication and selflessness of Bedi are insulted in India and are not shown the respect and honour due to them But what has he himself done by blatantly criticising Gavaskar in this article? Does he not know that Gavaskar is an Indian? Or, for Mr Wadhwaney, is everyone else, except a person from Bombay, an Indian? Does he not know that Gavaskar is a player of the same calibre, stature, dedication and selflessness as Don Bradman and Colin Cowdrey? This is anything but responsible journalism

I do not know which particular players he had in mind while alleging that Bombay cricketers used to drop catches deliberately However, I know that Umrigar, Tamhane, Engineer, Solkar, Wadekar, Gavaskar and Vengsarkar have taken more catches than any other Indian players The Bombay players—from the days of Merchant and Modi to the present generation of players like Gavaskar, Patil, Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri- have greatly contributed to the cause of Indian cricket Therefore, I would advise Mr Wadhwaney to give credit to those who deserve it I would also advise Bedi to be graceful in retirement He should take a leaf out of B S Chandrasekhar's exemplary conduct at the time of retirement

M GOUTAM PRAKASH KHARIWAL.
Bangalore

IT is not unnatural in India or, in any other country for that matter, that sportsmen, after having retired, make allegations against their colleagues But I was sorry to learn that Bedi, for whom we all have had deep respect, has joined this group

The interview itself is a bit confusing, for it has been published like an article Bedi states that a conspiracy against him was hatched by Sunil Gavaskar, thereby resulting in his ouster I do not think anybody in this country is oblivious of the form which Bedi displayed during the series against Pakistan in that country His captaincy in that series was poorer than ever Without realising that his own performance had let him down, Bedi cries out that Gavaskar has stabbed him in the back

Lastly, Bedi says Gavaskar should learn how to accept an umpire's verdict without a murmur Poor Bedi! I think he does not seem to know how it affects a batsman's psychology and enthusiasm when he is mistakenly given out on 97, and when the captain remains silent without even uttering any word of protest about the poor umpiring

S E NARAYANAN,
Coimbatore

THE interview with Bedi makes depressing reading, exposing Mr Wadhwaney's prejudice against Sunil Gavaskar and his own irresponsible journalism The charges against Gavaskar and Polly Umrigar are based on self-concocted impressions and inferences. Bedi, who rendered excellent service to his country, had been on the decline as a bowler over the last few years and, in fact, during the Indian tour of England in 1979, medium-pacers like Kapil Dev proved to be more successful than Bedi & Co Dilip Doshi, who filled the gap left by Bedi, did his job competently. Ravi Shastri's first appearance in Test cricket in New Zealand was also crowned with success Bedi should not have forgotten that he had similarly entered the arena of Test cricket, replacing Bapu Nadkarni and Salim Durrani. It is of no use to lament such replacements which are, in a sense, inevitable

It is also unfair on Wadhwaney's part to dub Ravi Shastri and Yograj Singh as sycophants. While one (Shastri) has already justified his inclusion in the Test team, the other is reported to have learnt a lot from the twin tour. They were not selected just because they were Gavaskar's "yes men" In fact, selection of the Indian team in the past few years has been fair, not being based on any regional or communal bias.

Again, it would be wrong to say that all Bombay players deliberately dropped catches off Bedi's bowling. In fact, in those days, holding of difficult catches by any Indian player was rare and all bowlers, including Vinoo Mankad, Subhash Gupte, Lala Amarnath, suffered from this malady Actually it was during Pataudi's captaincy that fielding got its due importance

I do not know how close or distant Gavaskar and Bedi are in their personal relations, but they seemed close enough on the ground. After decades of strife and parochialism, the Indian XI was welded into a team by captains like Nari Contractor and the Nawab of Pataudi This trend has been maintained by succeeding skippers and players. I hope such irresponsible journalism will not mar the homogeneity of the team.

C. SUBRAHMANYAM,
Visakhapatnam.

THE views held by Bedi regarding Sunil Gavaskar are quite astonishing. In his interview he has said that he would have played more Tests if he had hailed from Bombay. If this argument is valid, Prasanna would have certainly broken Gibbs' record If Bedi thinks he has been stabbed in the back by Gavaskar, it has been proved several times that Bedi has stabbed many cricketers in their backs, the most prominents among them being Prasanna.

On the twin tour of New Zealand and the West Indies, Prasanna proved a match-winner in the first Test at Auckland, claiming 11 wickets under the captaincy of Sunil Gavaskar But in the next couple of Tests, under Bedi's captaincy, he failed to capture any wickets because he bowled only 16 out of 134 overs that were bowled at Christchurch and only eight overs at Wellington. Further, Prasanna was totally ignored against New Zealand in the home series in 1976, so Bedi can be called a culprit for not utilising fully the potential of a world class offspinner

Again, he says in his interview that all except Gavaskar were loyal to him The word "loyalty" may have a special meaning to Bedi Sunny scored runs and batted beautifully whenever the situation demanded Bedi has also accused Gavaskar of using Shastri as Doshi's replacement, but Shastri performed creditably against New Zealand. Bedi's accusations against Gavaskar are actually the result of his frustration

R. ARAVIND,
Bangalore

I WAS amazed to read the interview with Bedi in the July 22 issue of your magazine. Bedi claims that Gavaskar is responsible for his ouster from Test cricket But statistics show that right from the series against Pakistan in 1978 to the end of the series against England in 1979, Bedi failed to capture an adequate number of wickets in any Test. Should a member of the selection panel (as Gavaskar is) allow sentimentality and respect for past achievements to cloud his decisions? Certainly not! If it is true that Gavaskar got Bedi 'sacked', it was well done. His performances were so disastrous that one day somebody would have had to resort to such a decision

At the end of his nasty article, Mr Wadhwaney gives Gavaskar a sermon on sportsmanship. Maybe he has forgotten that each time Bedi lost a series, he had a ready excuse. He said the ground conditions were poor in New Zealand in 1976. In the West Indies the same year too many bouncers were bowled against the Indian batsmen In 1976-1977, the English bowlers used vaseline on the ball, and in Australia in 1977-1978, the umpires were biased. Finally, in Pakistan, the atmosphere was not ideal for cricket. Whether Bedi was correct or not in his statements is not the point. The point is that he could never accept defeat like a true sportsman.

Not satisfied with his criticism against Gavaskar, Mr Wadhwaney goes on to launch a futile tirade against Bombay cricketers Let it be known that the Bombay cricketers have contributed more to the cause of Indian cricket than cricketers of any other part in India

What makes one really laugh is that Mr Wadhwaney claims that he is a journalist wearing a garb of neutrality He has actually given a thoroughly one-sided account of Bedi's achievements and Gavaskar's drawbacks

Bedi then questions Gavaskar's criticism of manager Durrani But Bedi, who prides himself on being honest, would have done the same if he were in Gavaskar's place It must have been frustrating for the entire team to have had an incompetent man like Durrani at the helm.

After going through the interview one cannot but conclude that both Bedi and Wadhwaney are "little men with no manners" *Sportsworld* would do well not to publish such scandalous articles in future which actually serve no purpose but to undermine Indian cricket and cricketers.

GUL-FRAAZ EZEKIEL,
Madras.

THOUGH a hot controversy is likely to be fanned by the interview with Bishan Singh Bedi, there is much truth in Bedi's so-called allegations. First, it is undeniable that Bedi himself was excluded too early from the Test side. Although Bedi committed a few mistakes on the 1978 tour to Pakistan, he was made a target of all kinds of criticism and ultimately dropped as captain of the side. On the English tour of 1979, Bedi put up a fine display, but he was not given enough chances thereafter. Bedi's first successor was Dhiraj Parsana who had shown a lot of promise in domestic cricket. But in the two Tests he played, he bowled only 20 overs (four of these were bowled as a medium-pacer). A promising career was thus nipped in the bud due to injudicious handling of the team by the captain.

Again, Bedi is fully justified in having alleged that the Board has been partial to Sunil Gavaskar, while other players (including Bedi himself) have been pulled up for violating the terms of the Board. But Gavaskar has committed such offences several times in connivance with the Board. He even escaped after having dubbed our selectors "court jesters". Then there was the controversial walk-out at Melbourne. However, the Board has always treated Gavaskar favourably. Recently Gavaskar was made a member of the committee to frame rules for curbing indiscipline among the players.

JAIMIN M. BHATT,
Bombay.

IT is an open fact now that Bedi is a victim of a conspiracy, but he has never said, as is evident from the interview, that Gavaskar was instrumental for his ouster. Mr Wadhwaney makes a clever attempt at defaming Gavaskar by making the interview appear as though every word has come directly from Bedi's mouth.

I just cannot understand the relevance of the last paragraph of the article. Is it connected with Bedi's retirement or his ouster? In fact, it was the coup de grace on the part of Mr Wadhwaney to blame Gavaskar for Bedi's retirement.

SHRIKANT,
Hyderabad.

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

O GOD!

New York: The roulette wheels spun, the dice clicked, and the bar was doing a roaring trade at the local church annual bazar. Then during the guess-the-weight-of-the-cake contest, the cops appeared. The bar, it seems, was unlicensed, the gambling illegal and minors were caught drinking. Embarrassed priests, shame faced nuns and nervous parishioners closed shop but at down it was business as usual while the congregation prayed that for once the cops would turn the other cheek. They did. Truly the Lord works in wondrous ways.

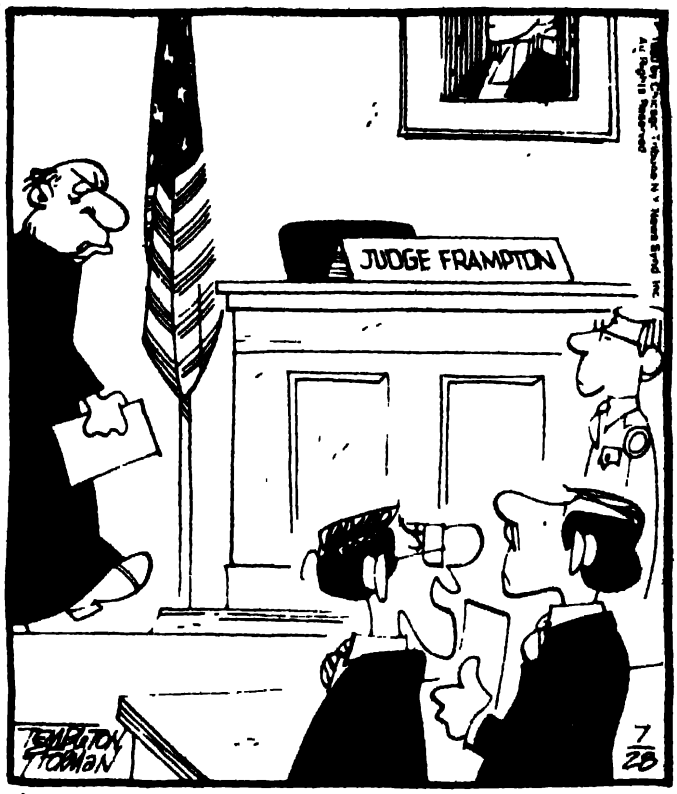
OUT FOR A DUCK

Las Vegas: Admirers of Donna Duck will be pleased to hear she's recovering from the arrow wound in her heart. The latter was the result of a poor shot by an indifferent marksman and put Donna in the news. However, the femme fatale may have more heart trouble when she returns to her pond. Her mate's been seen chasing another duck around the golf course in her absence! Just practising, see?

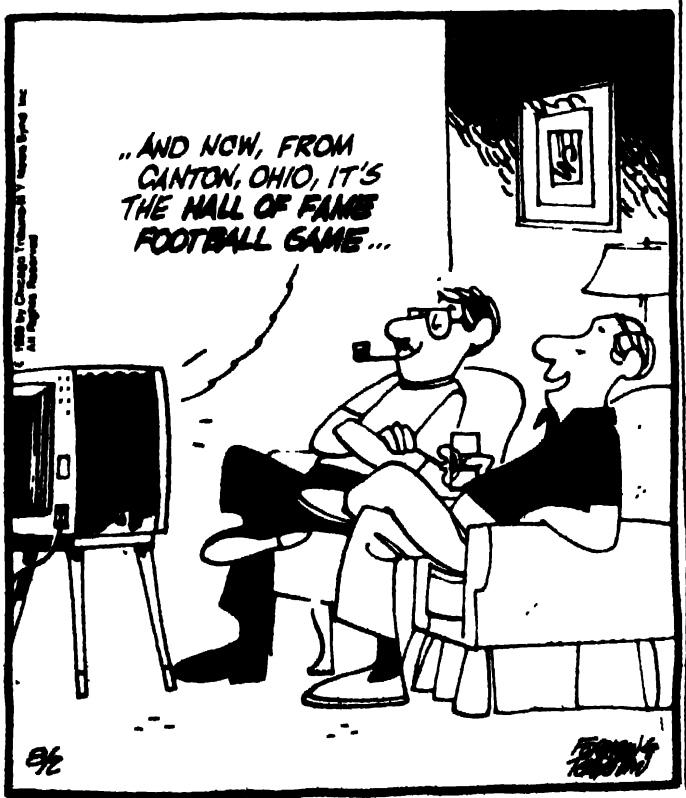
JOIN THE CLUB

Manchester: Even ads can be sporting. Such a one in a foreign magazine carries the following message. "Give the other man in your life 300 karate lessons. For just £50, we'll post him 300 nightly vouchers to show his wife, issue progress reports and periodic coloured belts. Occasionally, we'll arrange for him to show a black eye or broken clavicle and generally ensure that when he leaves you and goes back to her at midnight in a sweat and fit for nothing, she'll remain totally unsuspecting." Unless, of course, she too becomes a member.

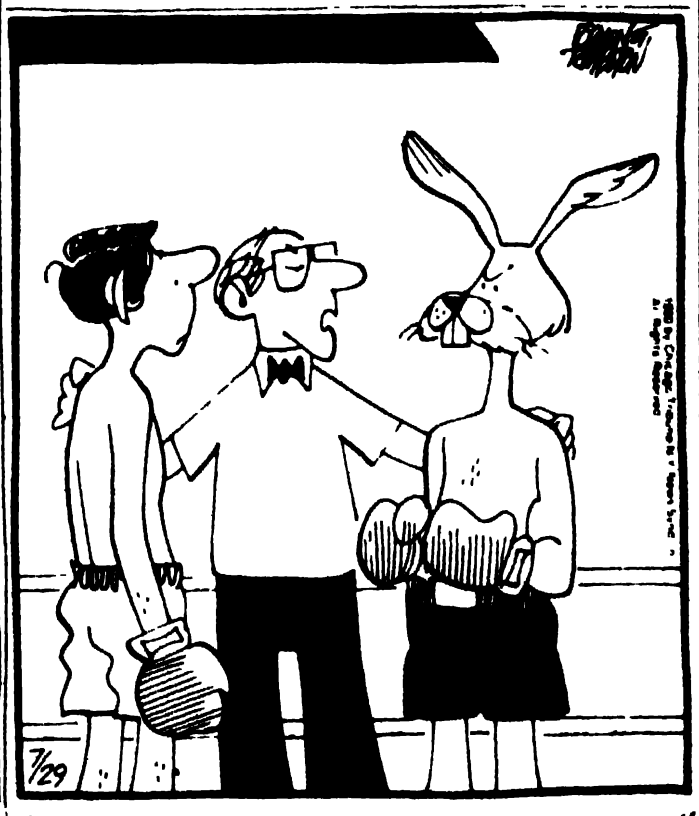
B. TELLIS



"QUITE A COINCIDENCE... IN A GOLF TOURNAMENT OVER THE WEEKEND I BEAT A GUY NAMED FRAMPTON!"



"Y'KNOW, IT'S KINDA LIKE THE FIRST ROBIN..."



"... AND REMEMBER, NO RABBIT PUNCHES!"

Team lacks sufficient experience

ASHOK KUMAR, former Indian hockey captain, assesses the team selected for the World Cup this winter at Bombay

THE idea of a national hockey team which is a proper blend of youth and experience is a commendable one indeed. But the 18-member squad, which the Indian Hockey Federation's selection committee announced after the coaching camp at Patiala, does not have experience in sufficient quantity. There is only one really experienced player in the team—and that is captain Surjit Singh himself. There should have been a few more players of his experience.

True, vice-captain and goalkeeper Ashok Dewan is a former World Cup and Olympic player. But he had been ignored after 1976. For a player in international hockey a five-year gap is a very long one. There is always the danger of his losing touch with the world scene. The same is the case with half-back Onkar Singh. He was in the 1975 India team, but after that nothing was heard of him. After such a long gap it is not always easy to rehabilitate oneself

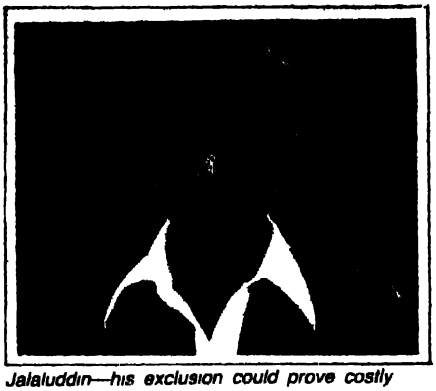
In a half-line, which is not as solid as it should be, Baskaran would have been an asset. Let us not in the least forget the World Cup in Bombay in December will be played on natural grass. The selectors may think that he is unsuitable for international hockey on artifical surfaces on which the game is more exacting But he is still quite all right for natural grass. His presence would have made a lot of difference.

Somaiya of Bombay is by far the best among the halves selected He has a proper hockey sense The selectors have placed their confidence in young Sujit—who replaces Baskaran as left-half But having played with him, I think he needs to develop the knack of establishing a rapport with his colleagues. Young Ravinder Pal, who has been selected for the centre-half berth is nothing extraordinary He is filling up the pivotal berth because of lack of the right type of players for this position.

As for the forward-line, like so many other people I also am at a loss to understand how Charanjit Kumar came to be selected. After a few opening minutes of India's first match in the Moscow Olympics last year, he has had little competitive hockey. So the selectors have had little chance of seeing him perform in actual match conditions. He was not even seen at the Inter-Zonal Tournament after which 44 players for the Patiala camp were selected. Surprising indeed.

Among the seven forwards selected there are two right-wingers and two left-wingers, one of whom, Syed Ali, is versatile enough to play on both wings. So where was the need to select a man like Charanjit, especially when a talented player like Jalaluddin was available? I am sorry for Jalaluddin Having played with him for a few years I felt that he had come to the stage when a player matures and develops the vital sense for the game. His omission is an error He should have been preferred to either Charanjit or Gomes.

The seven forwards do not include a specialist centre-forward. It is a pity Amarjit Singh Rana finds a place only in the standbys. Surinder Singh Sodhi, who has been preferred, is, strictly speaking, not a centre-forward. With Sodhi to lead the attack one feels that it will not carry enough punch. Here I would point out another mistake that was committed at the time the 44 probables were selected. It was the omission of Sukhbir Singh Grewal. The selectors were not quite fair to this centre-forward in judging him on the basis of his performance in only one tournament—which was the Inter-Zonal in Delhi in May. In that tournament Grewal was not his natural self. Perhaps the training at the Central



Jalaluddin—his exclusion could prove costly

Zone camp at Lucknow had something to do with his performance. In one month there, they followed a routine which might not have suited him. From my own experience I can say that one month is too short a time to develop perfect physical fitness and improve one's game Sometimes these rigorous routines can have an adverse effect. Grewal was a very different player when he toured Malaysia with the Indian Airlines team in June. I should know I was there

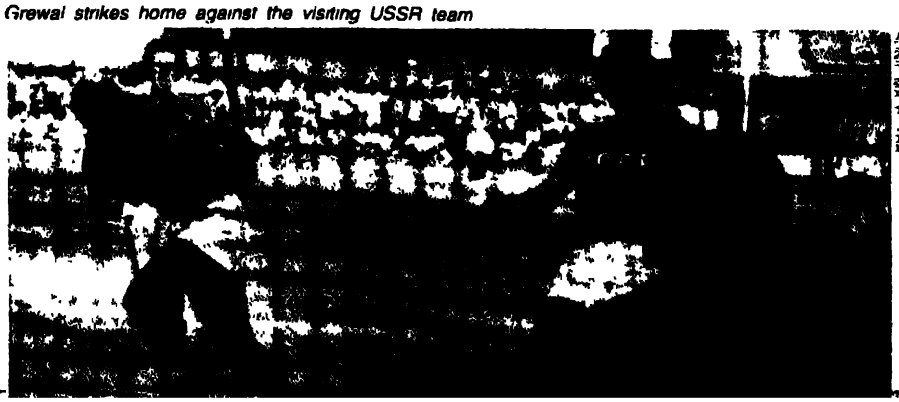
As for inside-right Merwyn Fernandes and the left-wing pair of Mohammed Shahid and Zaffar Iqbal, there can be no two opinions. But even these players need to mature further. Shahid, of course, is a very fine individual player. But even he could be more useful if he could develop a better combination with his centre-forward and outside-left Zaffar, the best left-winger we have, could learn from Pakistan's Samiullah. Samiullah had an instinct for the position of his colleagues even as he was outpacing the opposing defence and so few of his centres would go to waste.

I have been asked to compare this side with past sides in which I have played. In my view our team of the 1973 Amsterdam World Cup was the best Indian side of the last decade. I am afraid the 1981 India team does not compare favourably with the 1973 team in any department, in physical fitness or for sheer hockey still.

The idea of making the senior team play against the junior team during their training at Jullundur is a good one for which the federation should be commended. But I would also suggest that it arrange for matches between the India World Cup team and former senior players. I am sure such a step would help the present set of India players to learn and improve.

As told to A CORRESPONDENT

Grewal strikes home against the visiting USSR team



Goalies need time to build up confidence

WITH the reinstatement of Ashok Dewan, the much-maligned tribe of Indian hockey goalkeepers has salvaged some re spect. Twenty-six-year-old Dewan, who kept goal for India in the 1975 Kuala Lumpur World Cup and 1976 Montreal Olympics, is back in the team not only as its number one goalkeeper, but has also been elevated to the rank of vice-captain.

When a team goes through a lean period it is always easy to blame the goalkeepers. A chance missed by a forward is not such a serious crime as the conceding of a goal by a custodian. Both are human Both are fallible But the poor goalkeeper is judged differently A mistake by a forward will, at worst, be described as a costly miss But an error of judgment by a goalkeeper will be termed fatal It is good to see a goalkeeper being honoured, at least for a change



Ashok Dewan

Goalkeepers have few sympathisers when things go bad for him or his team But do we ever pause to think of the problems our poor underprivileged goalkeepers have to face

Goalkeeping in modern hockey is not the same thing old-timers were used to. Take the equipment, for example For long leading goalkeepers in the rest of the world have got accustomed to wearing protective facial masks. Why is it that our goalkeepers have not adopted a practice that would give them added confidence while facing penalty corner shots of frightening velocity? Personal preference, one might say. But the matter is not as simple as that.

Even a bespectacled man like Anand Mandapaka finds the facial masks available quite inconvenient. While keeping goal he wears contact lenses. The masks that Indian goalkeepers find available here are the visor type which can interfere with a goalkeeper's vision. Foreign goalkeepers have now discarded these visor type facial guards in favour of fibre glass ones. Why is it that the federation cannot arrange to supply goalkeepers with these fibre glass masks? This should not be difficult at all

Then take the case of kickers. The type of padded kickers used by our goalkeepers are quite cumbersome on artificial turf which is watered before and after each game Once the kickers soak the water they become too heavy for the goalkeepers. Foreign goalkeepers have got over the difficulty by doing away with these padded kickers altogether. What about getting the boot-type kickers used abroad for our own goalkeepers? Not on the eve of a major campaign but well in advance so that they have enough time to get adjusted to the new kickers Luckily, the World Cup at Bombay will be played on natural grass. But there is little time to lose if we are also thinking of preparing for the Asian Games

One understands that at the Patiala camp the eight goalkeepers who were vying for the two final berths were promised chest guards manufactured by the Jullundur firm of F C Sondhi But even these were not procured. Our goalkeepers are second to none in courage But do we have to continue exposing them to danger till a fatality occurs some day? A goalkeeper accustomed to protective equipment is not a coward Protective equipment only gives him added courage to discharge his duties

Most of our goalkeepers stray into the business by accident Some day some one asks a boy to stand in goal in place of an absent player, and the chance is that a new goalkeeper is born That was exactly how Dewan was introduced to goalkeeping Till then his first love was soccer—which, of course, proved an asset in his new vocation. The training of goalkeepers is a long and ardous process

Luckily for the present lot at the camps, there is a man like Desamuthu to coach them Undoubtedly one of the greatest hockey goalkeepers India has produced, Desamuthu worked hard in perfecting the boys who would duty under the bar in sliding, tackles, jumping, kicking with both feet and practising saves with a tennis ball in order to develop reflexes A jack-in-the-box in his day, Desamuthu can be depended upon to educate younger goalkeepers in such matters.

But there are other things they have to be trained in. Kicking away over the sidelines is no longer as profitable as it was in Desamuthu's playing days. The rules have changed. The push-in has been replaced in by the hit-in And any ball sent by the goalkeeper over the sideline will provide the opposing attack with an ideal chance for a centre into the ring. The Western players, good hitters of the ball, will be quick to exploit such opportunities Our goalkeepers, under the new rules, will have to think twice before rashly kicking away. The new rules also provide for a penalty corner against a goalkeeper kicking the ball high or wildly. The days of cheap thrills are over. One hopes our custodians have been given a proper grounding in the rules and made to do away with old habits which could now prove costly

All said and done, what our goalkeepers badly need is a feeling of security Even by our standards goalkeepers in the last decade have been changed too rapidly One could even lose count of the changes made since 1971 when Cedric Pereira kept goal for India It was Frederick in 1972, Charles Cornelius in 1973, Leslie Fernandes in 1974, and Dewan in 1975 and 1976 till he was replaced by Chhetri after the 1-6 defeat by Australia at Montreal In the 1978 World Cup, Chhetri was out and Frederick and Olympio Fernandes found favour, but not for long Olympio was discarded after the 1978 Asian Games where Allan Schoefield also played Arvind Chhabra made an international appearance in the Karachi Champions Cup but could not find a place in the 1980 Olympic team, Chhetri coming back again with Schoefield Now both are out Dewan is back, with Negi as the other goalkeeper

It is difficult to prosper for players constantly fearing dismissal at the first failure Goalkeepers must be given the time to build up their confidence—confidence which should not be allowed to lapse into complacency Our hockey administrators would do well to bear this in mind

A CORRESPONDENT

Heavy burden on a young side

ASHOK KAMATH

YOU did not have to be a crystal-gazer to predict that Surjit Singh Randhawa, or simply Surjit Singh as we all know him, would be back in the saddle as India's hockey captain. Many will no doubt contend that in asking Surjit to lead a rather youthful team in India's forthcoming international engagements the national selectors—Messrs. Inder Mohan Mahajan, Nandi Singh, Rajagopal, Gurbux Singh, Jaman Lal Sharma and Raj Kumar (yes, there are six of them with Mahajan being the chairman—only meted out poetic justice to the left full-back from Punjab. It may be recalled that Surjit was the captain-designate to the Moscow Olympics until he was summarily dismissed by the All-India Council of Sports (AICS) chieftain Sam Maneckshaw on grounds of 'indiscipline' during the pre-Moscow camp.

And the man, who swore he would not play for India ever, again came back when Messrs Mahajan and Co., took over the reins of Indian hockey administration last December.

While announcing the list of 18 players from the first list of 44 probables, the national selectors did not fish out any 'wild card' from up their sleeves. Of course, as always, there have been a couple of border-line cases, but all told, there was nothing dramatic in the list announced on July 31. (Possibly, this was because all the drama had been reserved and spent when the first list of 44 probables was announced. Remember the Baskaran fiasco?)

At 30, Surjit is the oldest and most experienced member of the team. Born on October 8, 1951, in Batala village of Punjab, Surjit captained the Indian Universities team on a tour of Australia and came very close to making it to the Munich Olympics team as a young lad of 21. The story that did the rounds after his non-inclusion in the Munich Olympics contingent was that he had angered the then IHF big boss Ashwini Kumar by not agreeing to sign up with the Border Security Force (Kumar was the Inspector-General of the BSF). But with his talent, Surjit did not have to wait long to get full India colours. He was selected for the second World Cup at Amsterdam (1973), thus beginning an international career which was marked by some strange ups and downs.

Syed Ali (centre) in action in the Inter-Zonal hockey meet at Delhi



ASHOK VAIDE



Mervyn Fernandes

The first such occasion was an incident which occurred during the pre-Buenos Aires World Cup (1978) coaching camp. Provoked by 'certain statements' by a selector 'against the Sikh community', Surjit, along with Baldev and Harcharan, left the camp in a huff. The entire episode, replete with allegations and counter-allegations, left a bad taste in the mouth and led to Surjit missing the Buenos Aires World Cup tournament. Thankfully, better counsel prevailed after the dust had settled down and Surjit came back into the team for the Asian Games that followed later that year.

Sharing the chore of policing the deep defence with Surjit will be young Rajinder Singh (born January 7, 1958) of the Railways and Vineet Kumar (born January 6, 1959) of Indian Airlines. Both these former Universities stars came into the Indian team for the Esanda International at Perth in April 1979 and have a reasonable amount of experience behind them.

With Dung Dung out of the reckoning and Davinder Singh not reporting for the camp, the choice of possible partners for Surjit in the deep defence narrowed down to Rajinder, Vineet, Varinder Bahadur and Manohar Topno. The first two mentioned got the nod without much difficulty, but the promising Varinder Bahadur will have to wait in the wings for some time more. He is among the reserves announced.

Under the Indian crosspiece, one saw the name of Ashok Dewan coming the moment he was appointed captain of the Central Zone team for the inter-zonal tournament which preceded the selection of the 44 prob-



Surjit Singh receiving the Inter Zonal trophy from Buta Singh

ables Ashok made a splash in the third World Cup at Kuala Lumpur in 1975 and was a member of the Montreal Olympics team the following year But he never was quite given a chance to establish himself as a regular By order of seniority it is but natural that he has been chosen as Surjit's deputy in the present outfit

Goalkeeping has been one position which has never seen a regular face in recent years The only man who stuck to the job with a certain amount of success was Allan Schoefield, but partly due to his outburst after the sacking of Baskaran and partly due to an injury sustained during the inter zonal championship last May, Allan did not find himself among the list of probables for the camp This Navy and Services custodian could well consider himself a 'has been', in view of the number of promising young claimants for his job It is indeed a pity, considering that Allan is only around 25 years old

THE second goalkeeper of the team is the former Universities star M R Negi who has quite a bit of experience as a junior Negi's selection over Airlines' Arvind Chabbra came as a bit of a surprise although there can be no denying that he is shaping into a very competent goalkeeper who should be around for some time to come, given a slice of luck to match his undeniable talents

One feels sorry for Chabbra not making the grade and I personally believe that there is little to choose between these two lads To Chabbra must go the distinction of attending the highest number of coaching camps in recent years without actually making it to the final 16 Perhaps these umpteen camps have made this affable Delhi lad one of the fittest hockey players around To a lesser extent Calcutta's bespectacled goalie Anand Mandapakka has also been a familiar

Mohamed Shahid competent inside left



figure at coaching camps without having graduating from the junior to the senior ranks

In the half line UP's Ravinderpal Singh has come to stay as a competent centre half a position that came in for much experimenting after it was vacated by Ajitpal Singh in the aftermath of the Montreal debacle For anyone who watched some of India's Moscow Olympics matches on television it was abundantly clear that Ravinderpal has few rivals for his place in the team, although there has been a tendency to make him play as right half, the position he started out with

By the same token it would be suicidal to try young Somaiya in any position other than his favourite right half as has been advocated in some quarters Gurmail Singh could fit in as right half or centre half in case of injury to either of the current incumbents The left half position which deposed captain Baskaran claimed as a matter of right till recently, is a toss up between Railway's Onkar Singh and the 19 year old baby of the team Sujit Kumar

As for the forward line Tata's M K Kaushik should be a certainty to man the right extreme position with a little competition coming from Punjab's Charanjit Kumar Charanjit who normally plays in the inside right position for his team was sidelined during India's Moscow Olympics match

Does Charanjit really deserve a place?

CHARANJIT KUMAR, who has been selected as one of the right-wingers in India's World Cup squad of 18, is the son of selector Raj Kumar. It is, therefore, all the more important that his choice should have been based so firmly on grounds of merit that it should have been beyond question. But were all the selectors thoroughly satisfied that the lad deserved a place on merit, and merit alone? One is not quite sure they were. The close set-up that is now running the affairs of Indian hockey is perhaps not aware of the heartburn and frustration this has been caused among the players who were not fortunate enough to be selected

Selectors have not only to be fair. It is equally important that they look like being fair When Charanjit was chosen among the 44 probables for the Patiala coaching camp he had not even been seen in action by the selectors at the Inter-Zone Hockey Tournament in Delhi in May. Charanjit was then nursing an injury. Defending his selection, Mr I. M. Mahajan, chairman of the selection committee and president of the Indian Hockey Federation, had then said that he had seen the right-winger perform in a tournament at Madras and was satisfied about his form. Now one is distressed to learn that Charanjit was not fully fit during the Patiala camp also and could not go through the entire training grind the way other players did because of a recurrence of his old malady of piles.

Some discards at Patiala complain that Charanjit made a single, all-too-brief appearance at the actual trials in July-end. To be able to get selected on the strength of a solitary showing not even extending to a half-hour the player should be a true genius or a wizard, especially if he can find favour over the heads of such fine right-wingers as Aiyanna and Jalaluddin. But is he genius or a wizard? Discriminating hockey followers are afraid he is not.

Even as the team was being finalised at Patiala Mr Mahajan expressed his opinion in a New Delhi television programme that there need not be undue worry about the right-wing berth when a player like Jalaluddin was available, or something to that effect One is now left wondering what the opinion was worth

Players like Jalaluddin and Aiyanna must now be asking themselves if they had not been wasting their time staking their claims for a right-winger's berth. In sympathetic sarcasm, one of them at Patiala was asked to try his hand at some other position!

At some stage later, two players will be dropped from the World Cup party. One of these will have to be a forward. Unless Charanjit suddenly shows talent out of this world while on the tour of Europe, one fears for M. K. Kaushik.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Charanjit Singh

Once long ago an important volleyball official went to the extent of risking an ugly showdown in his efforts to find a place for his son, not a particularly merited player, in the country's team. It led to a situation where the Indian Olympic Association stepped in to recommend withdrawal of the team from the Asian Games. The incident has been recalled to remind the sports public as to what length people can sometimes go to further the interests of sons.

When the IHF executive met in New Delhi to formally approve the team, one member is reported to have suggested that an additional centre-forward would have been more useful than two additional wingers. But it was a lone voice. It was claimed that Gomes of Bombay could fill in that role and there the matter ended. The federation, one fears, is becoming a set-up of 'yes' men. This is hardly in the best interest of hockey. Independent opinion, even dissent, must be encouraged by the decision-making coterie.

The criticism against the latest exercise in selection is chiefly on two counts. The halfline is too brittle and the attack lacks real striking power.

To come straight to the point, is Sujit Kumar, who will be 19 in December, an adequate replacement for the discarded Baskaran? Sujit was named among the 44 senior probables, but was training at the camp for the juniors at Lucknow True, Sujit gave a good account of himself at the Inter-Zonal in Delhi last May, but it was not the type to put him straight-away in the same class as a seasoned campaigner like Baskaran. Some tend to view Sujit's selection as a desperate measure by the selectors who were unable to find a good-enough left-half at Patiala. But one would be surprised to learn that the selectors had made up their mind in advance. Whichever way it is, they cannot escape criticism on procedural grounds. They were selecting a player without even getting him to take part in the trials.

As for the lack of striking power the selectors had themselves to blame because in May they had omitted a man of Sukhbir Grewal's dash and enterprise. The case of Grewal should serve as a lesson for the coaches. The conditioning programme that he was made to follow at the Lucknow coaching camp before the Inter-Zonal camp had the opposite effect on him. All players are not made the same way. Training schedules should suit players, not the other way about. The 1973 World Cup hockey team was what it was because of the way the training charts were drawn up. Many factors have to be considered when doing this, including the time available and individual needs and capacities of each player.

Nobody will at least find fault with the selection of Surjit Singh and Rajinder Singh as full-backs. Railwayman Rajinder, the find of the tour when the Russian team visited India last spring, is the man to watch. Surjit, the new captain, needs no introduction. Now that he has been rehabilitated, one hopes the episode of the 1980 summer, when he was sent back from the Bangalore camp by Field Marshal S. H. F. J. Maneckshaw, president of the All India Council of Sports, will be completely forgotten like a bad dream.

But whatever has happened to Davinder Singh, one of the deadliest strikers of the ball? He left the camp because of "personal reasons". According to some players at the camp, they are too personal in nature to permit a public discussion. According to others, he left because of a sudden spiritual call. Whatever the reasons, one sincerely hopes he has not been lost to hockey for good. However, Vineet Kumar has been given his opportunity. It is up to him now to make the best use of it. In modern hockey the third full-back is as important as the regulars. Indeed, there have been occasions in the past when a full-back has gone into the battle straight from the bench to save the day for India.

A CORRESPONDENT

against Tanzania, and a whisper campaign has it that it was the presence of his father, former Olympian and current national selector Raj Kumar, which assured him of a berth in the final 18.

In any case, Charanjit must have been run close by Airlines' Jalaluddin and Services' Aiyanna, not to speak of Gurcharan. Merwyn Fernandez should comfortably fit the bill in his favourite right-inside position with his friend from Bombay, Gomes, hovering around to do duty in case he is called upon to do so. I cannot really see Gomes as a centre-forward, which means Surinder Singh Sodhi will be the sole 'regular' spearhead to the attack. None of the specialist centre-forwards in the list of probables—Amarjit Singh (Moscow Olympian, Railways), Sushil Topno (Services), Amardeep Singh (Punjab) and Lakwinder Singh (Universities)—have found a place in the team.

The dazzling Mohamed Shahid has not a single rival to match his competence in the inside-left position while there are two candidates in the team to partner Shahid on the left Airlines' Zaffar Iqbal and UP's Syed Ali. After making his international debut on the tour of Afghanistan and later New Zealand, Syed was a member of the Montreal Olympics team and the World Cup side at Buenos Aires two years later Zaffar Iqbal replaced Syed for the Asian Games and vice versa for later competitions and these two lads will no doubt fight hard to make it to the final eleven

THE average age of the Indian team is 23 and beginning in the last week of August, there is a hectic schedule of international competitions. The first instalment of it all will be the tour of the USSR from August 28 and India will go on to take part in a six-nation tournament in Italy from September 3 to 6 The other countries competing in this tournament are hosts Italy, Kenya, Argentina, USSR and Poland From Italy the team moves on to the German Democratic Republic and hops across to play the West Germans in a series of Test matches. The Indians round off their tour with visits to Spain, Holland and Belgium—which involves, in all, almost one month.

This team will no doubt provide the nucleus of the one that will do duty in the World Cup at Bombay in December this year, with slight additions or subtractions here and there The tour of Europe will no doubt help us assess where we stand in the world of hockey today, especially after our Moscow Olympics title-triumph last year, when most of the big names did not participate.

If the performance of Pakistan on their tour of Europe last June is any indication, India is not likely to find the going easy Pakistan, who will be defending her World Cup title at Bombay this year, has a totally new-look team of youngsters and this may have contributed to their un-world-champions-like performance The world champs slid to a pathetic fourth in the PIA Champions Cup last December, and this coincided with their drastic infusion of young blood as replacements for the old warhorses who took them back to the top at the

S S Sodhi - will spearhead the attack





Negi - shaping well

Buenos Aires World Cup (1978) and most of the major hockey titles in the following two years.

Pakistan's track record on the 12-day European tour should make followers in this sub-continent sit up The only really convincing win they registered was against the Netherlands in the four-nation Peugeot Trophy in Amsterdam when they beat the hosts 5-2, and the three-cornered fight in Poland where they beat the host 5-1 Pakistan were held by the Netherlands and Australia in two earlier matches But what is unnerving in the Indian context is Pakistan's two losses against Poland (one a second string side) on the natural grass surface No doubt, India's performance on the forthcoming tour will be keenly watched not only in this country but also in neighbouring Pakistan

After India's European tour there is the four-Test match series (two in India and the other two in Pakistan) which should capture the imagination of hockey lovers in both these countries An identical series prior to the Buenos Aires World Cup drew crowds the like of which was seen never before in Bombay and Bangalore and the proposed series should, without doubt generate as much or more interest India was soundly drubbed in the first three Tests on that occasion, with Pakistan 'diplomatically' losing to India in the fourth and final Test

However, an additional handicap for our players is going to be the so-called 'experimental rules' from September 1 this year

Goal: Ashok Dewan and M R Negi
Full Backs: Surjit Singh, Rajinder Singh and Vineet Kumar
Halves: Somaiya, Gurmail Singh, Ravinderpal Singh, Onkar Singh and Sujit Kumar
Forwards: M K Kaushik, Charanjit Kumar, Merwyn Fernandes, M Gomes, Surinder Singh Sodhi, Mohamed Shahid, Zaffar Iqbal and Syed Ali
Standbys:
Goal:
Arvind Chabbra
Backs: Virender Bahadur
Halves: Carvalho and J Tirkey
Forwards: Ravi Kumar, A Rana and Rajinder Singh (Universities)

Gavaskar should tighten the reins

This move, claims former Australian Test cricketer JOHN BENAUD, will ensure greater success for India. The Indian captain needs to forget his pre-occupation with his own batting, instead spending more time urging his team-mates to greater glory.

EVEN from a vantage point as far distant as Sydney, Australia it is always a little startling to see how precise, and often bitter, are the post-mortems on a failed Indian Test team

There is none of that here None of the interviews granted by captains and managers in which they go so far as to even comment on team personalities, umpiring and so on Our team leaders are so aware of the nakedness of their backs that they save forthright comments for the right moment a win

In the case of losing, we much prefer to ask ourselves whether or not the selectors have chosen the right players And indeed, the poor Australian performances that preceeded last summer's success against India and New Zealand had evoked just that response

Among those selectors whose name was suggested for the chop was none other than that great all-rounder Alan Davidson. And it seems to me, assessing the judgments of Indian cricket fans, and noting the intense questioning of Gavaskar and Durrani after the tour, little Sunil may be justified in fearing a similar fate

That may be a pity, a course too hasty, if one takes into account the problems the great batsman not only faced on that Down Under tour, but in fact created for himself as the team dragged itself down in what seemed to me to be a morass of self pity. That was brought on by an indifferent build-up to a first Test that left the Indians crushed in three days by the searing pace of Lillee, Hogg and Pascoe.

One should never take too much note of New Zealand tours that are tagged onto the end of major Australian tours. There can be nothing else for a touring team than letdown

It was compounded almost immediately when Gavaskar admitted his batsmen were worried by such pace and sent the Australians in on that perfect second Test pitch Compounded more when all the good early one-day results were washed away by fielding so diabolical even a fifth former would have blushed.

In Test cricket there is no place for self pity Gavaskar was never strong enough of personality to rid his team of this frailty He, and especially those youngsters in the party, instead hoped—indeed longed for—the day when all would be resolved by the world's greatest opening bat rekindling his reputation. Of course, his reputation had preceeded him

MUCH headline play was made of the statistical fact that he was so close to the mighty Bradman's record of Test centuries Once, it was even suggested he might catch Bradman on the tour It would have been quite a catch—he was still six centuries behind. A three-Test series, a century in every innings...hardly Cricket might be a funny game but even its peculiarities don't go quite that far

In retrospect, Gavaskar failed to cope initially Against an obscure outfit from outback West Australia, he strained ribs, left the field with Chauhan as captain, then got a first ball duck when he batted at ten

Pascoe and Trevor Chappell the firepower of the Aussies backfired in the last series against India





Will Sunny regain the form which is usually expected of him?

The embarrassment such a fate may have caused the little champion paled beside the game result—India were beaten. By a rabble of country bumpkins They lost for one reason—they were too complacent. The application was not there. A danger sign.

Much had been made of Gavaskar's 157 in the game before, the tour opener, against West Australia More should have been made of this flop, at least within the team Because second-rate opposition though it may have been, it was a one-day limited-over affair and, as such, represented the type of cricket that India would be called on to play a great deal of during the tour

Time was short to the major games. Surely a ripe time to fashion tactics, to assess players' strengths and weaknesses, and most important, approach. Yet the strong head so obviously needed was missing in the next vital game too

Gavaskar missed the South Australian game because of the rib strain and a second innings batting debacle, in which the order was strangely reversed, reeked of recklessness As did Gavaskar's decision just a few days before the first Test to hand over the captaincy to Vishwanath so he, Gavaskar, could concentrate on his batting. It was suggested the move was a striking success because Gavaskar made 79.

Everyone else forgot—except the sad-looking Vishwanath, I suppose—that Vishy had been having deep trouble hitting runs too. He made three Imagine how his confidence was further shattered And assuming that the theory with Gavaskar standing down was to help his batting, why then did he re-assume the captaincy for the Test?

If one was to be harsh with Gavaskar, one would have to accuse him of irresponsibility to his team In fact, even question whether his temperament was sufficient to withstand the demands of captaincy. Just as peculiar was his questioning during that lead up game of something published about him in a Press information kit. There have been a few Test match captains worried by such trivia at such an important moment on a tour It's hackneyed, but it's right—that phrase about leading by example

AND as the tourists watched Greg Chappell mount his double century onslaught in that first Test, some of them may well have wondered about that Especially as Sunil had made only a duck and ten

Leaving aside the point that even the greatest must fail sometime, one had to marvel at Chappell's authority and Gavaskar's indecisiveness. I am inclined to agree with Gavaskar himself when he says the season in English County cricket has waylaid his once-excellent footwork and even his concentration.

But to have allowed it to linger on into the first Test must have had a harrowing effect not only on himself

but all his expectant team-mates. His post-tour comment that his form did not worry him until New Zealand seems ill-considered in the face of his pre-Test stand-down. And then, later, before the second Test when team manager Durrani announced Gavaskar was "on the verge of a lot of runs" Too much was expected in the way of a personal contribution from Gavaskar's bat.

It was also expected of Chappell, but the Australians are resilient enough never to rely on one man.

That was apparent in the second Test in Adelaide when the Australian captain made only 36 out of 528. And the current Australian team touring England does not seem to be doing too badly without the Great One.

It is unfair to compare Gavaskar with Greg Chappell as a captain. Chappell had four good seasons to adjust to this type of cricket, three with World Series and another tough one against Brearley's men and Lloyd's in that dual tour

It was clear in Sydney that the other Indian players could not produce the courage to rough it out with Gavaskar gone, Patil excepted After the Sydney debacle there were Press reports that there had been angry scenes in the Indian dressing room. Gavaskar had reportedly uttered some telling comments on attitudes.

We, Australians, have a saying about "the wheels falling off" when things are going badly. It seemed India was down on her axles. And, of course, we all laughed when Gavaskar won the toss in Adelaide and sent us in on that flat batting strip and we made the huge score.

And we gave one of those knowing chuckles when Gavaskar announced that his players would imagine the Australians were really Pakistanis to try to induce some of the spirit that won them that series not long before.

And we said "Told you so" when the Indian camp agreed they were quite worried by the prospect of facing that terrifying fast bowling trio on the first morning of the Test

Too much was expected of Kapil, a great bowler and batsman and fieldsman. How he must have wished for a partner of Ghavri's heart but of twice his pace! How he must have been disgusted at the lack of purpose in the field of his team-mates!

Yet Gavaskar, and many more, can properly look back on that Test and consider it the turning point of the tour. At least the team went into that game with an objective. Not to lose. The plan was to play for a draw and



CENTRAL PRESS PHOTO

Allan Border in an attacking mood

Lawson, Yallop and Lillee reclining during net practice



then win in Melbourne where the pitch would be ideal for India.

There was even some good derived out of the fact they went perilously close to losing after seeming to be holding well on the final day. That was when Vengsarkar and Sharma were victims of diabolical Australian umpiring errors.

Gavaskar showed a refreshing cleverness after the game when he announced that touring teams who visited India always complain about umpires.....Australian umpires are as good as Indian umpires. Of course, he undid it all in Melbourne when he himself got a bad decision and tried to lead a team walk-off.

Still, Adelaide showed the Indians could indeed fight hard, and I would have to say Gavaskar foxed Greg Chappell.

CLEAR though the inference was that the Indians were afraid of the Australian pacemen, it was not necessarily foolish of Gavaskar to admit it during the game. He said "We knew there would be life in the wicket the first morning and I did not want to let Lillee and company have that advantage".

Greg Chappell was so impressed by this utterance that he actually sent India in at Melbourne And that of course meant Australia had to bat last on that brute of a pitch. Fans will recall that Australia managed less than a hundred, and the series was squared

One should never take too much note of New Zealand tours that are tagged onto the end of major Australian tours There can be nothing else for a touring team than letdown. Conditions are invariably colder, pitches are entirely different.

Neither England nor even the mighty West Indians have succeeded in New Zealand following close on an Australian tour Better to look more closely at the Australian tour itself, the make-up of which was quite foreign to the Indians, with its double tasks, the one-day World Series games and the Tests.

If these are to be the norm then touring captains must sort out their priorities very early. The days of good, solid four-day build-up games are gone. Touring teams must be balanced differently too. For instance, I am at a loss to understand just why India sent two 'keepers They would have been much better served sending another batsman or bowler as one-day support.

Gavaskar could have done with some help in that direction. A marginally better showing in that form of cricket could well have done much to boost the confidence at Test level. That was never going to be while the fielding was as bad as it was. Doshi was very poor.

I notice Gavaskar too made reference to the younger members of the side using their feet. One can only wonder why he was not firmer with them. Again, one wonders if his temperament is not strong enough. Of course, it is not only Australian tours where the format will be quick, one-day and fewer Tests. Already the Australia tours to England have changed markedly. I envisage many of those island games in the West Indies being replaced by one-day internationals.

THESE are necessarily harder tours than of old. More than ever, the captain must be a disciplinarian. There are none of those easy games to have a letdown, as Gavaskar found early on this tour against the West Australian country team.

Every game is vital in the build-up. It is unfair to compare Gavaskar with Greg Chappell as a captain. Chappell had four good seasons to adjust to this type of cricket. Three with World Series and another tough one against Brearley's men and Lloyd's in that dual tour.

He was on home soil And he knew he was backed by a great fast bowling trio, the developing greatness of Kim Hughes, and a side, that although relatively new, had become quite experienced at Test level and in the vagaries of the one-day game

If Gavaskar is to take India along to a new strength on the international scene then he will need to quickly develop a strength of character that was missing for the most part here in Australia

Gavaskar was lumbered with a fairly new side whose make-up neither revolved around spin nor pace. We were assured it was a side which would bat well, but when things went badly for the stars, it was clear the others were just that much short on experience.

Too much was expected of Kapil, a great bowler and batsman and fieldman How he must have wished for a partner of Ghavri's heart but of twice his pace How he must have been disgusted by the lack of purpose in the field of his team-mates. Perhaps this led to friction between Kapil and others.

Where was Gavaskar in these moments of crisis? Greg Chappell stood for no nonsense when he was building up the Australians to their current level of achievement. Gavaskar seems to have indulged in some. If he is to take India along to a new strength on the international scene then he will need to quickly develop a strength of character that was missing for the most part here in Australia. He must not be totally pre-occupied with his own batting success He must spend more time considering his team-mates, urging them to greater deeds Encouragement that should be given in the quiet of a dressing room or hotel room, mind you, not in the Press, as was so often the case here in Australia.

All those faults were missing once India set her course in the second Test. Success followed.



Kim Hughes, who seems to be gaining a lot of expenence

Sportsworld Exclusive

FOURTH TEST: Another nail in Australia's coffin



Botham gives vent to his joy after the victory

TONY LEWIS reports from Edgbaston on the fourth Test, which Australia, surprisingly enough, managed to lose—again

GLORY BE! It happened again Australia, in their own words of grim masochistic humour, snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. for the second time At Headingley they failed to make 130 to win in the last innings. This time, at Edgbaston on a much better wicket, 151 was beyond their reach

At Headingley they were 18 runs short and at Edgbaston it was 29 runs They retreated to the hotel at the end of it, silent and humble They had failed to withstand the immense pressures of Test cricket They sat around in their rooms and sipped cool drinks, the odd one appeared in the bar, but only briefly

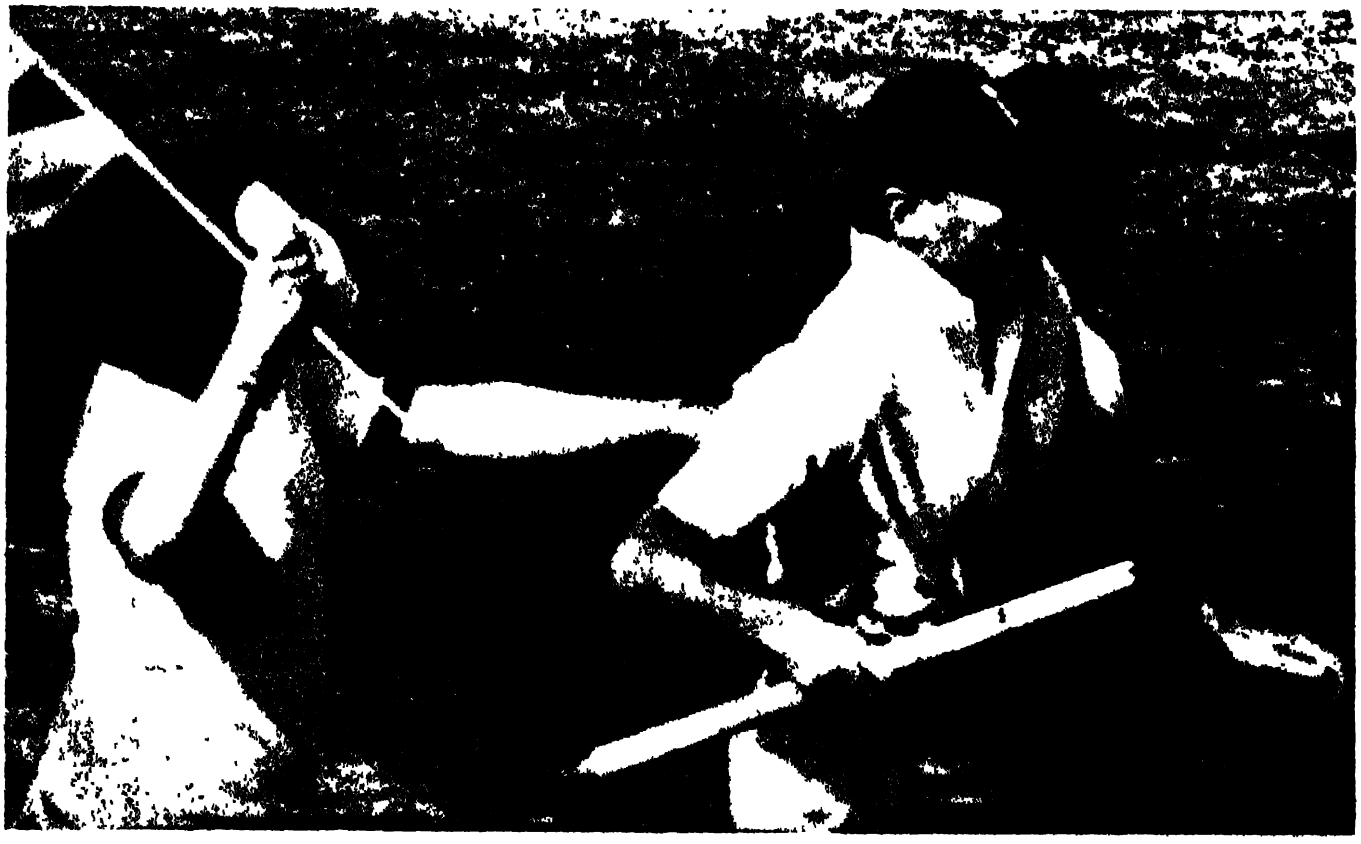
What they had to face was their personal weaknesses The two Tests were theirs for the taking: they should have been three-nil up by now and safe They are not. They are two-one down

If, in games, you believe that some men are born to win and others to lose, then you will understand that Australia's last day was about a communal collapse of morale and resolve, rather than any technical weakness with the bat They are not a very good batting side and this knowledge kept England hoping and trying, but you did not have to be very good to get 151 on a slow Birmingham pitch which turned a little and bounced rather unevenly on the low side.

Having collapsed twice in sight of certain victories, will Kim Hughes' side be able to reverse the process when the chance comes at Old Trafford or at The Oval?

They will have one huge motivating force—shame England, on the other hand, understand how they can bully

Geoff Boycott is surrounded by jubilant spectators after the victory



the pusillanimous Australians. If, at Old Trafford, they can only set the tourists 50 to win, they will still believe that they are in with a chance This has not been so much a cricket match at Edgbaston, but a kangaroo transfixed by a lion

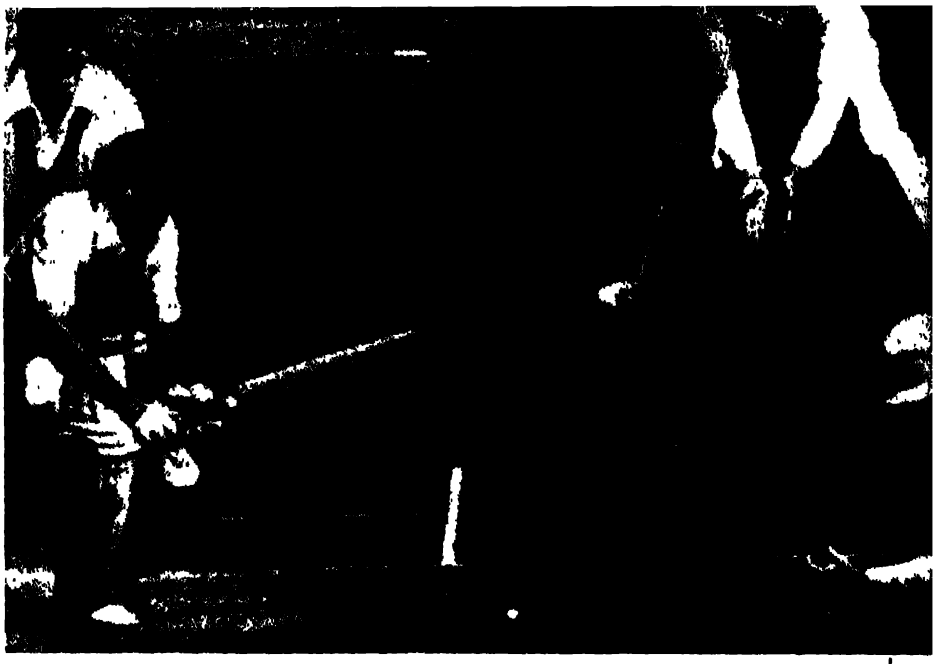
This amazing Test match also did another thing for many watchers They no longer argue that the captaincy of England should be given to one of the eleven chosen as long as he is chosen on merit. Few would argue that Brearley is a good enough batsman to be included, but he proved to everyone on the final day how proper leadership works.

First of all his presence has given Botham great release from all his problems. Botham himself said, after he received the Man of the Match award, that he had not believed that he had a bowling role to play in the final stages He could see how Willis and Emburey were the key figures

Had he been captain he would not have bowled more than half a dozen overs Brearley gave him 14 and he took five wickets for eleven runs He took Australia's last five wickets for one run in 26 balls Yes, they batted like children, across the line, but still, Botham had the cool to bowl straight

He hit the stumps of Kent, Marsh and Alderman, had Bright lbw and Lillee caught behind the stumps off one of the rare wide ones Brearley further brought the best out of Willis Willis has a new lease of life—his hundredth? Over went the early wickets of Dyson and Hughes No one was easy against him.

Brearley set Emburey's field with cool skill He surrounded the batsmen with close fielders, sometimes three,



David Gower is caught by Allan Border for 26

and occasionally four (a familiar sight in India when Venkat and Prasanna were at their peaks) Then he omitted the middle ring of fielders except for one on each side of the wicket, wide mid-off, and wide mid-on, and the rest were sent to the boundary

The Australians either blocked the ball or slogged it None of them managed to play the ball firmly through the close ring There was some brave fielding too, by Botham and Gatting

So, twice Brearley has defended small targets and has brought the best out of his side They are confident in his judgement He is firm and fair Oh, and by the way, his 48 was the highest score of the match

Former England players were generous in the praise for a fine match, but the one word on all their lips was "unbelieveable" This may sound carping, but the standard of play was mediocre These two teams could play two more Tests like this They are both vulnerable standards are low It is like watching two heavyweights, both of whom have glass jaws

"Fings ain't what they used to be," but it is very exciting, all the same

Aussie skipper Kim Hughes (left) looks on as keeper Marsh collects the ball after Ray Bright (not in picture) clean bowls England's Peter Willey



Spot report

What price a South African Packer-style circus?

ASHIS RAY

CRICKET and politics, especially cricket and the South African question have become inseparable It's been oft-repeated in *Sportsworld* that cricket is passing through a very testing time and that the ICC meeting that took place recently was going to be crucial

Fortunately, the approach adopted at the conference last month proved to be a pragmatic one, and the danger that threatened world cricket after the Robin Jackman incident in Guyana has been largely defused And this is because South Africa's application for re-admission was flatly rejected, and happily enough, Sri Lanka was included into the fold.

But a slight tension between the white and non-white Test-playing nations lingers, and this has been illustrated by the West Indies withdrawing their invitation to New Zealand on the grounds of the latter's rugby links with the Springboks Yet another development, and a positive one, is the TCCB's decision to take action against County players venturing on a visit to South Africa with a team of Test calibre.

The cancellation of New Zealand's trip was officially announced by the secretary of the West Indian Cricket Board, Harold Burnett, at Port of Spain. He said "Certain governments of the West Indian territories have indicated to the Board that the New Zealand team would not be welcome"

Antigua, Jamaica and Guyana have publicly made known their opposition to the New Zealand cricket tour

Of course, this has come as no surprise The president of the New Zealand Cricket Council, Robert Vance, told this correspondent in Wellington in February last that his body was "Watching events in the West Indies (meaning the Jackman affair) very closely" and it appeared that objections might be raised by the Caribbean authorities against some of his players, notably Richard Hadlee, who has played in South Africa, and indeed, openly admitted at that time that he was considering another offer

It was evident that the NZCC would not bow to any restrictions in terms of team selection, and moreover, after the dissatisfaction of the West Indians with the umpiring in Kiwi-country the last time they were there, not a great deal of bonhomie was expected to be generated between members of the two sides during the proposed return visit This was another factor that made New Zealanders a bit hesitant about undertaking the assignment



Jackman leaves Barbados the start of the trouble

Obviously, the fact that the South African Rugby Union team was allowed into New Zealand, and the government there did nothing about it, set the seal on the matter, which, incidentally, is in violation of the resolution passed by the six member nations at the last ICC meeting The actions of other sporting bodies should not affect cricket, being the gist of the motion

However, India, as had been rumoured, will not replace New Zealand Some months ago it was being suggested that India would go to the West Indies in addition to New Zealand. But the technical committee meeting of the Cricket Board in Srinagar favoured a dropping of the idea, after the chairman of the selection committee, Polly Umrigar, reportedly opposed the concept. It is said that he received the backing of the captain, Sunil Gavaskar, and that, more or less, clinched it

Their argument was quite sound. India are scheduled to tour England in the first half of the summer next year, which means that the visit will begin no later than the end of April, and that would involve the squad coming straight to this country after completing the Caribbean circuit, which would have dragged on till the third week of April.

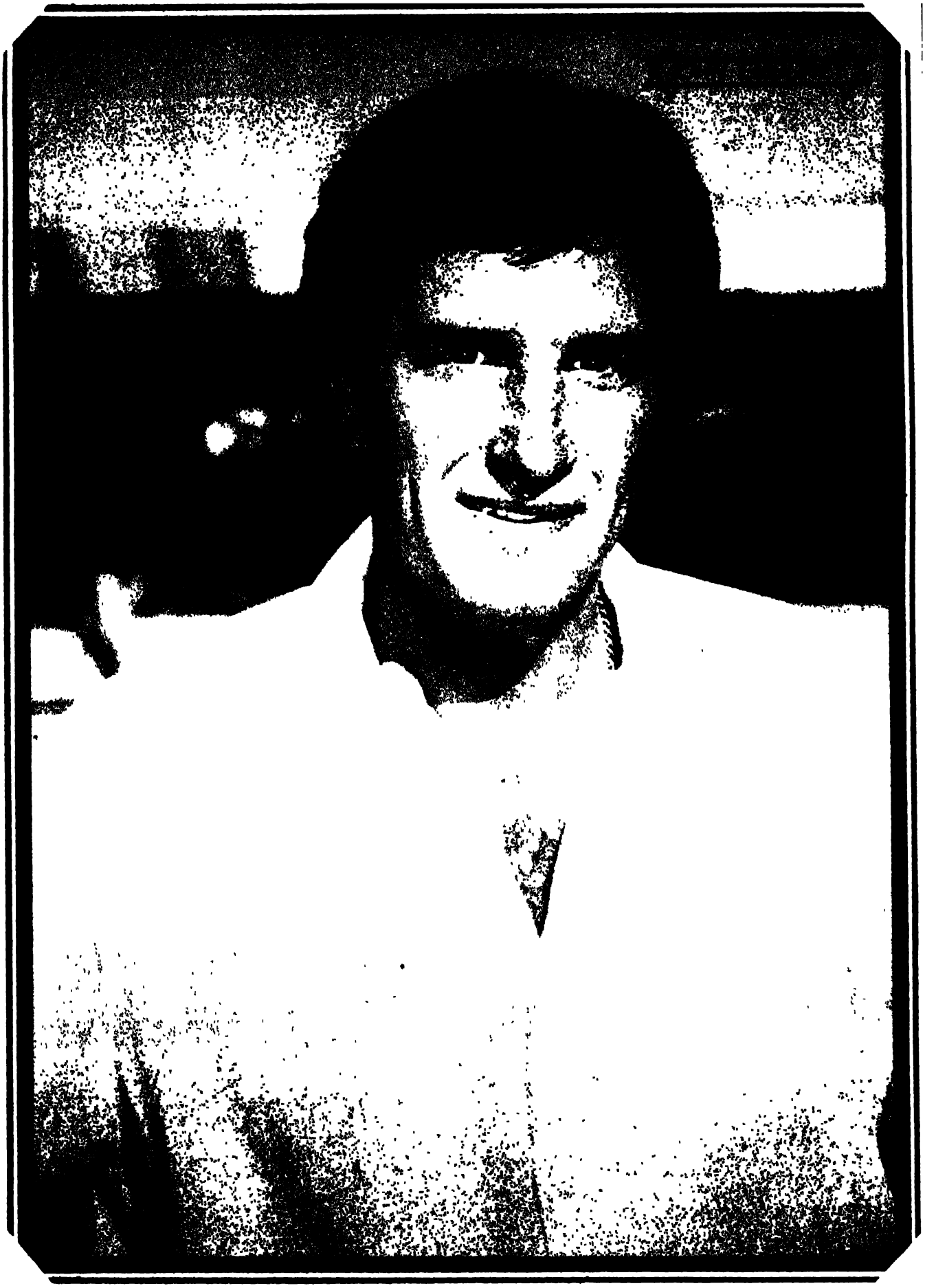
In any case, to face the toughest unit in the world after six Tests at home this winter could well have been to the detriment of India's performance in England, where, over and above, the first segment of the season is a much stiffer examination for tourists. On the two occasions that india have done reasonably well in England, namely in 1971 and 1979, both series took place in the second half

The Test and County Cricket Board move is also an apparent contradiction of the line taken by the English Cricket Council during the Jackman fracas The TCCB has sent a letter to all first-class cricketers playing in England warning them that if they accepted an invitation to tour South Africa with a side of Test standard that is being raised to go there they would jeopardise their chances of playing for England

Earlier, the Cricket Council's response to the deportation order served on Jackman was that they did not consider that his presence in the England touring team in Guyana infringed the spirit or letter of the Gleneagles agreement Of course, the TCCB circular does not go the full distance as players have not been disbarred from coaching in South Africa or taking part in the Currie Cup competition

It's been public knowledge for quite some time that business interests in South Africa have been keen to end their country's isolation in cricket, and to 'attract' the world's finest cricketers to perform in front of their crowds Holiday inns, South African breweries and South African Airways have been mentioned as contenders to sponsor such a tour Before making a positive move they waited until the recent ICC meeting, at which South African delegates were given little encouragement to think that they are any nearer to being brought back into the set-up

Of course, the TCCB have treaded a cautious course and instead of using the word 'shall' in their threat, as they did when issuing a note on similar sanctions after Kerry Packer's intrusion into the game, they have opted for the word 'could' They were afraid of interfering with trade practices and falling foul of the law. In 1977. they finished up by losing £ 2,50,000 following a famous high court judgement. But they are pledged to preserve the status quo, and this should be applauded by the non-white countries, who now command a majority in the ICC.



Profile

Karsan Ghavri: the gritty all-rounder

HARESH MUNWANI

"HE is not a champion He will never win a match for you The number of times he hits a century or captures five wickets in an innings will be very few But make no mistake about it Karsan Ghavri is of immense utility to the team. He has it in him to chip in with the crucial wicket you have been wanting or score 30 runs in a very tight situation. And because of his tremendous versatility you can use him at any time" said Kim Hughes, the Australian skipper about the Bombay all-rounder.

At the end of the tour to Australia and New Zealand a lot of people were talking in terms of Ghavri's retirement, that he is exhausted and needs to be replaced. "I am not finished. I still have a few years of cricket left in me I am going to work damn hard and if I do well in the early part of the season my chances of making the team to take on England would be bright One thing I know I am still eager to play for the country" quipped Karsan.

For Karsan Devji Ghavri, life began to look bright at the age of 17 when he was chosen as a member of the junior side to tour Australia. On his return from Down Under he was selected to play for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy After three years with them he decided to switch over to Bombay. The reason for switching sides was that "I was trying for a Rs 350 job with the Railways. But they said that they were going to take on an athlete that year. Another advantage of playing for Bombay was that being a premier side, it always qualified for the knock-out rounds of the Ranji Trophy which meant that you had three extra games in the national limelight."

He went on saying "While playing for Saurashtra your place in the side was guaranteed but the situation was different when you turned out for Bombay. You have to fight for your place there because of an abundance of talent all around All this inculcates a spirit of competition."

Ghavri made his Test debut against the West Indies. He revealed "I played against the West Indians led by Clive Lloyd in 1974-75 in their match against West Zone. That was a non-event for me Next I was in the President's XI to take on the Windies at Jaipur where I captured four quick wickets. On the basis of this performance I was selected for the third Test at Calcutta My inclusion in the team came as a big surprise. To say the least, I was shocked as I was not expecting it. I never thought I would make it to the National team so soon Initially I couldn't believe my good fortune. In fact when my friends told me the happy tidings I thought they were joking"

Ghavri laments "The greatest shock came when I was not selected for the tour of New Zealand and West Indies" Ghavri continued "I played three Tests in the 1974-75 series and later had good performances in domestic cricket to back my candidature for the 1975-76 tour to New Zealand and West Indies I was really disappointed and disillusioned Till today nothing has hurt me so much as this At that stage I couldn't understand how it happened In fact, I was at such a low point that I even entertained thoughts of quitting the game"

"Fortunately I had a few good friends who advised me to forget about this and start afresh They encouraged me to fight and regain the place" Ghavri adds "I am glad I listened to them I made it back to the Test squad Though I may not have played all the Tests since then, the gratifying aspect was that at least I was in the reserves"

Ghavri adds "I have been a regular member of the Test side since 1978. Except in the West Indies I have played in all the other major cricketing countries Besides, I played league cricket in England for four years"

Ghavri, who has played in 39 Tests, completed his 100 wickets during the Sydney Test against Australia Not a very healthy strike rate for a front-line bowler He replies "Yes but initially I was asked to get rid of the shine so that our spinners—Chandra, Venkat, Bedi and Prasanna—could come on This allowed me to bowl just four to five overs. The spin quartet were really good so I am not complaining. But, for any bowler to capture wickets, he must bowl a good spell. It's only since Gavaskar was made captain that the

Ghavri and skipper Gavaskar share a joke at the nets





Karsan Ghavri batting belligerently against Australia at Bombay

NIKHIL BHATTACHARJEE



Will Ghavri be able to strike his usual form with ball?

emphasis in our attack has shifted from spin to the faster stuff."

Somehow or the other Ghavri's ability to spin the ball has not been fully utilised. Is he himself responsible for this, or is it that India's captains do not have much faith in his slower stuff? "I myself never took it seriously. When it came to the slower stuff we had the best guys in the business. I was not expected to work wonders with my fingers. Chandra and company were expected to deliver the goods. I concentrated more on my medium-fast bowling. I don't even bowl spin in the nets, with the result that I have no control over line and length. The only occasion I am called on to bowl the slower stuff is when the regular spinners in the side are injured."

Ghavri is in the Indian team as an all-rounder, but his batting has lagged behind. His highest score is 86. Karsan shrugs his shoulders and says "I really like to clout the ball. It's my natural game. I like to go for my shots. If your side's score is 6 wickets down for 75 runs, obviously you cannot play that type of a game. Under this situation you have to play a tight game and possibly give support to the batsman at the other end. I am not saying I don't like to fight. I like to take on a challenge but what I am trying to say is that I cannot play my natural game in such situations."

GHAVRI, who has scored 913 runs in Tests for an average of 21.23 feels "I go to bat at number eight or nine. At this position, the opportunities you have are limited. With my kind of game, the ideal time to go in to bat is when the side has got 350 on the board. My highest score was made against Hughes' Aussies in the sixth Test at Bombay. I had not done well in that series and I knew that if I didn't do well at Bombay I would be dropped".

"I was all keyed up for the big occasion. I went and played my natural game, going for my shots. Unfortunately, at 86 I was trying to place the ball between mid-wicket and mid-on when the ball caught the top edge of the bat and spooned up for a dolly catch."

Why has he not been exercising this kind of concentration and determination more often? Why was it that he produced this knock only because of the fear of being dropped from the team? "It's like I said. I am not able to play my own game if six batsmen are back in the pavilion for a small score. In this particular match, when I went in to bat we had already notched up a good score. Kirmani got a century as nightwatchman that day."

Karsan's batting technique may not satisfy the purists. Two distinct peculiarities exist. His bat comes down rather oddly from second slip during the back-lift. Secondly, before meeting the ball with his bat, his wrists have turned a complete 360 degrees before contact. Talking about his efforts to rectify the error, Karsan confesses "I tried to do the right thing as mentioned in the coaching manuals but found that I was getting into all sorts of new problems. Exasperated, I just gave up and decided to go back to my old style. It has become part of me whether I like it or not."

As a player, Ghavri is well aware of his strengths and weaknesses. He does not have the guile of Denis Lillee, the accuracy of Andy Roberts or the rhythmic action of Michael Holding. Referring to Karsan's speed, one of his critics said "He bowls at a friendly pace"

For that matter, Ghavri does not look like a fast bowler. He is not tall, muscular or broad-chested but the affable Ghavri who measures 5' 10" and tips the scale at 74 kg has the heart and the determination of a bowler who is willing to work for his wickets. He is certainly not lacking in stamina nor is he known as shirker. No matter what the odds are, he will be there to give his all. The reputation of the batsman or the size of the score matters very little to Ghavri.

During the 1979 tour to England, he was accused of throwing the ball. Karsan recalled "In the game against the MCC at Lords, Mike Brearley was hit on the nose by one of my bumpers. The next thing I knew he was screaming "Chucker". They were taking films of my action from all angles in the next match but the verdict was in my favour."

Was it a psychological move on the part of Brearley? Did Ghavri become conscious of this allegation and as a result check himself? What were his reactions when he was being filmed? "I think Brearley was surprised that my bumper was faster than my normal delivery. It is naturally going to leave the ground a bit quickly, because a bowler always puts in something extra to make the ball fly over the batsman's head. It's a legitimate surprise weapon in the armoury of the bowler so he is obviously going to put in something additional. It never bothered me. I didn't even know they were taking films of my bowling action. If Brearley's action was part of a strategy to unnerve me, it was wide of the target."

This apart, has Ghavri been called by any other umpire? Ghavri retaliates "No. But there was an incident that took place Down Under in one of the night games. Greg Chappell, the Aussie captain was hit by a similar type of ball that hit Brearley. Ian Chappell, who was the expert commentator on TV said that I was definitely throwing. During the break Greg came up to Sunil and told him, 'Tell Karsan not to chuck.' Gavaskar replied tersely, 'In that case you tell Len Pascoe to play clean.' I have played under all umpires. Nobody thinks I throw."

Karsan is not a difficult man. Nor does he expect you to pamper him. All this time in the limelight has not given him a big head. He remains shy and reticent. He entertains few ambitions and is modest. Ghavri declares "I have never thought in terms of captaincy. I don't think I am cut out for it. I would rather do my own thing."

If there is one habit he indulges in, it is good clothes. Sartorially conscious, with his hair well groomed, there are times when you could mistake Ghavri for a film star.





World Games I comes a cropper

It was the wrong time and the wrong place. While Bucharest hosted the World Universad, America had its own sports fest over at Syracuse, New York. Television ignored the World Games and so did the people. ARIJIT SEN reports from Santa Clara, California

IT was unfortunate, but true. Sandwiched between "Operation Medfly" (a massive Mediterranean fruitfly eradication programme) and the annual ritualistic Santa Clara fair, the long-awaited World Games I came through merely as one more diversion in California's bay area. Hundreds of local volunteers put in hours of work, but labour was lost in near-empty stands, an array of dissatisfied athletes and what is turning out to be a financial disaster

The trend was set at the opening ceremony For anyone who had attended the Olympics or even the Asian Games, the July 24 "gala" was just gall. Four parachute jumpers, a school band (yes, it's true—complete with a little girl who had an arm on a sling) and a marchpast by athletes in "go-as-you-like-fashion" comprised the opening of what officials felt was the most important event since the start of the Olympics

Having seen the clockwork precision with which international meets are handled, I knew that the World Games did not have a chance There were too many amateurs—well-meaning but inexperienced—manning key positions. To begin with, publicity fell woefully short of present-day requirements—to the extent that, till a day before the event, not even a local San Jose newspaper carried a line on it. I remember making enquiries a month before the Games was scheduled Even Los Angeles newsmen, barely a four-hour drive away, knew nothing "Maybe some kind of mini-Olympics," was the terse comment.

Santa Clara did not recover from this early news void. The local university apart, very few in the bay area knew what was happening. They did not even seem to care. What was billed as the "Olympics of non-Olympic events" turned out to be more of a localised fun fair Perhaps, not even as interesting as that.

By one reckoning, of course, the authorities were hit below the belt. When they had first drawn up a list of disciplines for the World Games, boxing had found a place But pressures from several quarters resulted in the axing of what could have been the major attraction of the Games. This is one of the highest rated spectator-

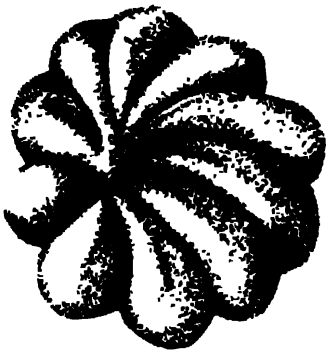
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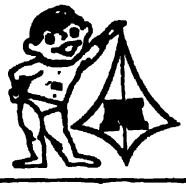
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sports in the United States and would certainly have generated enough interest to draw crowds from several nearby cities including Los Angeles, San Fransisco and the State capital, Sacramento.

But even before boxing, there had been a casualty Powerlifting, a sport that originated in the United States to accommodate weightlifters who were getting too old for the exacting labour of the parent sport, found itself at a loss when negotiations between the World Games authorities and the major television networks broke down

These negotiations had actually formed the lifeline of the Games With the revenue expected from the TV rights, all the sports included in the meet would have been able to finance contingents. Simultaneously, there would have been nationwide publicity of the Games, which in turn would have helped popularise all the minor disciplines that have been knocking on Olympics doors for decades now

But TV did not take up the offer Powerlifting officials found they could not finance the region-wise competition (on a worldwide basis) that they had planned to do and so, lost the $1,000 fund they received from the Games' organisers

Boxing, of course, fell by the wayside because it was already an Olympic sport, besides being a Mecca for professionals The squeeze came from both sides since they did not want a further division of the pie Thus it was that the World Games got under way at the Buck Shaw Stadium in the University of Santa Clara, with tug of-war preliminaries immediately following the opening ceremony

There were several thrills and spills before the 640 and the 720 kg finals were worked through, the first on the opening day and the second on the next The events which featured seven contesting countries, were won by England and Switzerland, respectively

But the surprise of the entire meet came in badminton The world's two leading players, Liem Swie King of Indonesia and Prakash Padukone of India, had come to compete There was also the finest women player, Lene Koppen of Sweden But there were absentees, too Rudy Hartono, Irena Verawaty were all missing, along with India's Syed Mody and Ami Ghia The Indonesians ostensibly had an engagement in Australia, while the absence of the Indians was inexplicable, even to Prakash, who had flown straight from his temporary home in Copenhagen

But absenteeism was not the main aspect of this competition at the San Jose civic auditorium It was the clear domination of the Chinese, the unknown quantities in this sport Prakash had an easy draw till the semi final, but he met his match in Chen Changie, who won 18-14 and 18-16 "His backhand spin service in the closing stages got me," Prakash said after the match "But the Chinese are not invincible" In the other semis, Liem came a cropper against unseeded Morten Frost Hansen, losing 14-18, 15-11, 6-15 In the final, Chen won in three games, 9-15, 15 7, 15-12

What went wrong

ONE look at the result sheet proves that the premise of the World Games was wrong. The idea was to present a non-national meet where the idea of country-wise demarcation was to be sidelined by that of sport-based identification. But that was not to be as all the official listings contained, in very clear terms, victories on a national basis This was one round down for the Games officials who have been crying wolf for a long time now, complaining about the International Olympic Committee's stepmotherly attitude.

It is certain that the IOC has not taken kindly to the idea of a World Games competing for attention. But it should have had no quarrel with the World Games because it does not accommodate or even propose to accommodate the disciplines featured in the World Games But the fact that World Games officials are carrying on with an idea of nation-based sports will not do it any good, though one knows that interest is generated only when national feelings are aroused. But caught between its professed aim and its means of survival, the World Games is in for a tough battle for survival

At the moment, negotiations are on with England to host World Games II. One does not know whether this will bear fruit, but one can be reasonably sure that England will manage to publicise this meet better than it has been possible to do in the US. For one thing, the pressure for prime time TV are less in the United Kingdom. For another, there is generally a higher level of curiosity in that country, which will help garner interest in the games, if and when the Games are held there.

ARIJIT SEN

The winners

BADMINTON
Men's singles Chen Cangie, followed by Morten Frost Hansen, Padukone and King
Doubles· Sin Zhian and Yao Ximing (China) followed by Thomas Kihlstrom and Stefan Karlsson (Sweden)
Women's singles Chang Ailing (China) followed by Sun Ae Hwang, Koppen and Fumiko Tohkkairirin
Women's Doubles Chang Ailing and Liu Xia (China) followed by Nora Perry-and Jane Webster (England)

WATER SKIING
Men Sammy Duvall (USA) followed by Carl Roberge (USA), and Mike Neville (Aust)
Women· Ana Mari Carrisco (Vene) followed by Anita Carlman (Sweden), Karin Roberge (USA)
(One world record was set and another equalled in the Women's events)

TRAMPOLINE
Men Y Milord (Canada) followed by Steve Elliott (USA), Randy Wilson (USA)
Women. Beth Fairchild (USA) followed by Barbara Lehto (Canada), and Christine Tough (Canada)

TUMBLING:
Men Steve Elliott (USA) followed by Randy Wickstrom (USA), Steve Cooper (USA),
Women Angie Whiting (USA) followed by Kristie Lamen (USA) Stacey Hansen (USA)

TAEKWENDO (A martial art reportedly more attack-oriented than karate)
Korea won nine of the ten weight divisions In the heavyweight, Canada's Darrell Hanogen just beat Chong-man Park of Korea for first place

ROLLER SKATING:
Marathon men's 26-mile race: Tom Peterson (USA), Hermes Fossi (Italy), Danny van de Perre (Belgium)
Women's mile race· Anne Lambrechts (Belgium), Mary Barriere (USA), and M Dooley (also of the USA)

SPEED SKATING:
Men's 20,000m Scott Constantine (NZ), Guisseppe Cruciani (Italy), Moreno Bagnoli (Italy)
Women's 5,000m. Monica Lucchese (Italy), Paola Sometti (Italy), Annie Lanbrechts (Belgium)

ARTISTIC ROLLER SKATING:
USA won four gold, three silver, one bronze medal
Italy—One silver, one bronze
Canada and England—One bronze each

POWERLIFTING:
Jim Cash (100Kg) world record
Doyle Kennedy

BOWLING:
Men Arne Strom (Norway)
Women. Liliane Gregori (France)
Mixed Team Ruth Guerster and Chris Batson (Aust)

BASEBALL:
USA, Korea, Australia

CASTING.
Flydistance single handed Steve Rajeff (USA), Peter Hayes (Aust) Olaf Forland (Norway)
Flydistance double handed Steve Rajeff (USA), Chris Korich (USA) Olaf Forland (Norway)

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



The crowd and Calcutta soccer

Crowds play an extremely important role in any sport. Sometimes, the mere fact that a side is playing before a home crowd inspires its players to perform miracles. The Calcutta soccer crowd is no exception. SARAJIT DEB spoke to footballers Manash Bhattacharya and Surajit Sengupta to find out how fans can influence the run of play. These two senior soccer players, while voicing their frank opinions, have simultaneously spoken for the city's footballing community







The questions

The following questions were put to the footballers, whose answers to the respective queries begin with the corresponding numbers.

1. Did you face an appreciable change in crowd reaction when you first switched from a small team to a big club?
2. Did crowd reaction have an important bearing in your first game for a big side?
3. What distinguishes the Calcutta soccer crowd from its counterparts in other centres?
4. Is this kind of treatment detrimental to a player?
5. What kind of pressure can a crowd create? As a player, how do you react to this pressure?
6. Does crowd pressure always bring out the best in you?
7. Does the fact that the crowd can put you on a pedestal one day and torment you the next, create any psychological problems for you?
8. What does it mean to play in front of your home crowd?
9. Some players switch loyalties. Does this blacklist them in the eyes of their former supporters?

MANASH BHATTACHARYA

1. I started playing in the Calcutta League in 1973. In those days I played for Calcutta Gymkhana and my very first experience on the maidan was a novel one. We played against Mohun Bagan and drew the match after I had scored the only goal for my side.

When the match began, the spectators naturally sided with Mohun Bagan, but after they realised that we were playing well, they began cheering us too. It so happened that after the match, the Mohun Bagan supporters chaired me and escorted my team back to the Calcutta Gymkhana tent.

In 1976 I was with Aryan. That year we drew against East Bengal—again after I scored the equaliser. That was my first goal against East Bengal, so I was naturally very happy, but my joy was not shared by the East Bengal supporters. They had reason to be unhappy. It was the first serious jolt they had received after six years as League champions.

As with most footballers in junior sides, I always tried to play my best game against the big teams. That is the easiest way of gaining recognition and coming into the limelight. If a player from a junior side performs well against the big teams, he is discussed by the supporters of the big teams. Let me give you an example. Strange though it may seem, supporters of a big team, say Mohun Bagan, would like to see a junior player perform well against the other big teams and will praise him if he does so.

However, if the same player does well against Mohun Bagan, they are not very pleased about that! Yet, if the

player in question were to switch allegiance to Mohun Bagan, they would welcome him with open arms. In such a case, they treat you like a folk hero. They cheer you, encourage you and it becomes hard to believe it was the same crowd that did not have a single word of encouragement for you when you played against their team. They are a peculiar lot

2. After I left Aryan in 1977 to join Mohun Bagan, my first match was against my old team. Our forward line comprised Md Akbar, Md Habib, Shyam Thapa and myself In the first half, I missed sitter after sitter I also created a few openings which the other players failed to utilise. From the public stands, stones and other items were thrown on the ground and I became the target.

The first half ended goalless and when we were returning for our refreshments, the members abused me and spat on me I was naturally very nervous. I told Sankar Banerjee (the present Mohun Bagan coach who was also with them in 1977) that I would not play any more I was able to tell him this because we come from the same place and I have known him from my childhood.

But our coach, P K. Banerjee, insisted on retaining me and gave me a lot of encouragement In the second half, Bidesh Bose replaced Shyam Thapa, which meant this was the first time we were playing together. It was from his centre that I scored the only goal of the match and Bhombalda (Subhas Bhowmik) was the first to congratulate me after the match. It was in his position (on the right wing) that I had played.

But what I cherish more than anything else was the feeling of elation as the same crowd that had pelted me earlier now chaired me and started chanting "Guru, guru". It is an experience I'll remember for a very long time.

3. In Calcutta the supporters understand nothing but a win They will tolerate nothing short of victory. True, there is always a certain section among supporters in other cities that comprises fanatics, but this is not the case with the majority in other centres That, then, is the basic difference Outside Calcutta, they support the side that plays better. Here, in Calcutta, though, tension runs very high Wherever one goes he is surrounded by people telling him that he must score, or play well or something like that

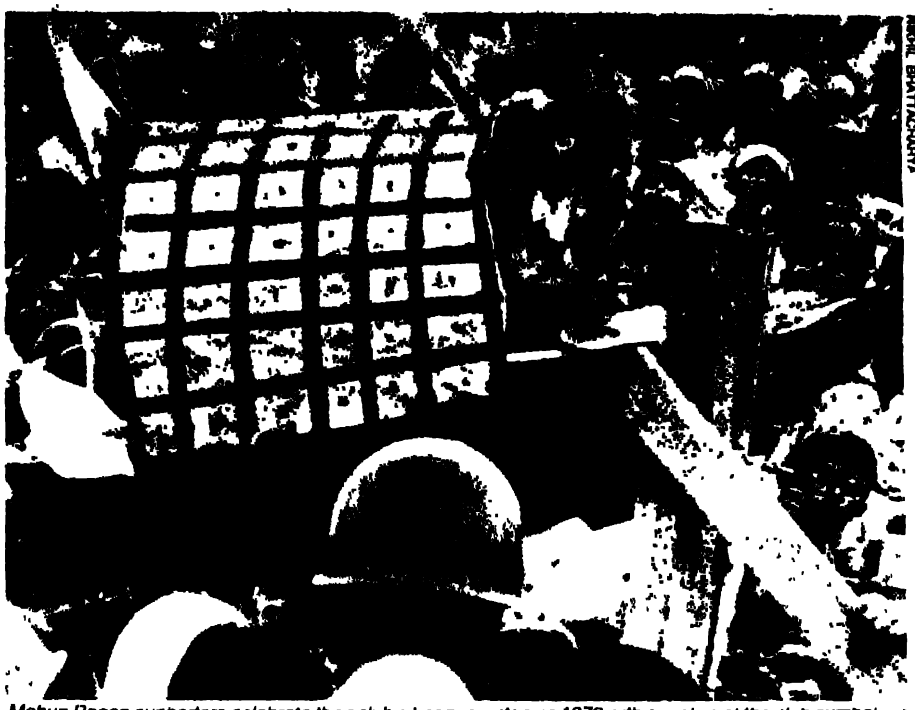
There is no freedom for a player here We are pestered everywhere at home, in the office I think we forwards sufter more because it is goals that make the difference between a victory and a loss



A woman breaks into tears (top) after the defeat of her favourite team (Below) Mihir Bose being garlanded by East Bengal supporters (Subhash Bhaumik seems applauding) after scoring a hat-trick during the 1979 season Is such treatment good for the players?



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Mohun Bagan supporters celebrate their club s League victory in 1979 with a replica of the club symbol—a boat

I will give you an example. We (Mohun Bagan) were playing the 1980 Durand final against Mohammedan Sporting. They were the hot favourites and in Delhi they enjoy excellent support from the crowd. But when Mohun Bagan started playing well, the majority of the spectators who had started by supporting Mohammedan Sporting began rooting for us instead. They, in general, support the better team This kind of discretion is rare in Calcutta Of course, one cannot expect the East Bengal supporters to cheer Mohun Bagan if the latter is playing well.

Supporters here are biased

4. It is not so much the question of whether it is good or bad. If one wants to play football, especially in Calcutta, one has to get used to it A player should be mentally prepared for this because it is expected that a player understands crowd psychology.

5. It is very difficult to pinpoint the kind of pressure we face, but pressure definitely exists. It has a harmful effect on our game because our supporters want us to win at all costs. In order to do that, a goal is necessary. At times like that, we forget our natural game and concentrate on the hunt for a goal. That becomes the prime thing, not the game.

6. They want the best from us all the time, but we are human beings and are bound to make mistakes. But one has to get habituated to all this. Right now we (Mohammedan Sporting players) are under tremendous pressure because we are on the brink of winning the League after so many years. The difference between ourselves and our closest rivals at this stage (Mohun Bagan) is just one point and this adds to the pressure. But, in a way, I'm used to this kind of pressure.

In 1979, when I was with Mohun Bagan, we faced a similar situation when we won the League, beating East Bengal by only one point. The pressure on us players is even greater because personal prestige is involved along with the club's prestige. This has a psychological effect on us and sometimes it ruins our performance. At the same time, the additional pressure in some of the big matches, does bring out the best in some players.

7. This is part and parcel of a player's life. When a player enters the ground the thought is always at the back of his mind. But again one must get used to all this if one wants to succeed.

8. The home crowd does play an important role and form a major asset for any big team. The home crowd creates tremendous pressure for opposing teams both psychologically and playing-wise. But this is not confirmed to India only I think all teams play well in front of a home crowd. By way of example, let me point out that the last two World Cup tournaments were won by the host nation.

9. This is the first time I have changed from one big club to another. I have heard a lot of stories from my

A scene during the 1980 Nationals at Cuttack where a huge crowd turned up to witness the matches Are such crowds knowledgeable enough?



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

friends about the treatment they received when they switched loyalties but we (Bidesh Bose, Prasun Banerjee and myself) have not faced such a situation.

In fact, the Mohun Bagan supporters still feel for us and are generally very encouraging. Perhaps they have realised that it was not our fault that we left Mohun Bagan. Perhaps they still feel that we are part of them. In that respect, we are lucky that we have not faced any untoward incident.

SURAJIT SENGUPTA

1. A boy from a middle-class family embarks on a completely different life when he finishes his studies and begins working. He has this peculiar feeling which he finds very difficult to describe. It is the same sort of feeling a player experiences when he changes from a small club to a big one.

I'll illustrate the point. During student life, there are new experiences every day; examinations, interviews, classes and the student tries to develop himself according to the situation. He prepares himself mentally to face those tests and is ready to go through the hardships that are necessary to acquire certain goals. What makes it easier for him is that there is little mental pressure on him. There is only expectancy.

It is the same thing when a player turns out for a small team. His family, his fellow players and assorted well-wishers, club officials, who act as guardians expect him to play well.

I was with Kidderpore in 1971 and I know that the club officials never expected us to win against Mohun Bagan or East Bengal. We tried to play well and were satisfied if we, the individual players, managed to perform well. If we managed to draw, everyone was very happy. Even if the margin of defeat was very small there was joy among the officials.

In 1971, Kidderpore entered the fourth round of the Rovers Cup at Bombay. That was the first time the club had progressed that far and there was tremendous joy. The officials came to our dressing room and started dancing and the players were also very happy. But the moment one enters service life, another factor is added to expectancy, and that is dependence.

When a player joins a big team, people expect a great deal more of him than they did previously. This escalating expectation slowly turns into dependence. And the moment dependence creeps in, the additional burden begins to cause mental pressure.

During the 1979 Calcutta League, a Mohun Bagan player performed a hat-trick. I was with East Bengal that year. When I entered the field, some of the spectators said: "Surajitda, create a hat-trick for Shabbir Ali." That is dependence. If I had played that match badly, the crowd would not have forgiven me. They expected me to play well and they depended upon me to help Shabbir score a hat-trick, because they knew my ability. I think these examples will illustrate the point.

2. In 1972 I switched over from Kidderpore to Mohun Bagan. Our first match of the League was against Sporting Union. My initial success involved figuring in the first eleven in my opening match for a big team. My next success was scoring a goal in that match. This kind of success affects a player in a way that is very difficult to explain.

Perhaps this example will explain a part of it: A student after passing his examinations, applies for a clerical post in a particular office. He is called for the interview and is offered the post of an officer in the same company. He faces a similar situation

3. Almost everyone will say that crowds outside Calcutta are not fanatical and that they understand football. I do not think it is necessary to be a fanatic to understand football. Nor do I say that all fanatics understand football. Football has become a part and parcel of the life of Calcutta spectators. When I used to play for East Bengal, I knew a particular man who used to come everyday, not only for our games but also for our practice sessions. He was always there. He used to enter the ground at about 2 30 or 2.45 pm, even during inconsequential matches. One particular day, I was a bit late. I entered the field at about 3.30 pm when I saw this particular man entering through the gate. The people who manned the gates also knew him because he was so regular. They asked him why he was so late Do you know his answer? "My son died today, and I have just come back from the burning ghat." That is Calcutta crowd for you.

In comparison, soccer outside Calcutta is played once a year in most places. That is, in the case of an important tournament. The maximum a spectator can devote to football is, say, 15 days' leave from his office That is the difference between the crowd here in Calcutta and in other centres. The Calcutta fans will do anything to be at a match and one must remember the season lasts several weeks in this city.

4. This depends. There is always a division in the crowd. If I say that the treatment we receive here is only good, I will be encouraging a section of the spectators. And if I say the treatment is bad, I will be maligning

Police protecting East Bengal players against their supporters' wrath after their lack-lustre performances in the current season.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



Salkia Friends officials and players hug each other in joy after they held Mohammedan Sporting to a draw in the current League In the small teams expectations are limited



Mohun Bagan supporters jeering at the East Bengal players after their defeat in the prestigeous battle of giants this year

another section

On the day of a match, a few boys came to my house with *prasad* and told me "Surajitda, we prayed to God and asked him to ensure that our team wins Please help us " This definitely inspires a player On the other hand, after a player scores a goal, it is very often seen that a spectator enters the field and touches the players' feet or puts a garland on the player The player can be physically hurt in this manner and it is wrong to enter the field and disturb the game That is bad, and one cannot support this sort of behaviour

5 If, before important matches, players are allowed to rest for three to four days, I think it will help a great deal By rest I mean that we will practise and then go home and be far from the public, because it is they who create the pressure First there are the supporters who always say "You must play well," or "You must score a goal," or "We will have to win at any cost" and things of this sort This creates unnecessary pressure

Then comes the question of distribution of tickets A section of the spectators are associated with the players, in some way or the other It is not necessary that they have to be relatives or close friends, but they just know them They come to the players for tickets and it is not always possible for the player concerned to satisfy them This too can create pressure which is very harmful

Besides, this is all in addition to the pressure that already exists before important matches We know that a loss or even a draw in certain circumstances will not satisfy the spectators who might not take it sportingly Determination and confidence are good but pressure is harmful

6 Never Pressure can never bring out the best in anybody If there is pressure from certain quarters, it can bring out the best in a person physically but football is not something that is only physical There is a system and a method and the more we can plan, the better for us I can never produce my best form in those matches which create tremendous mental pressure

7 One must get habituated to this kind of situation if one wants to play in Calcutta Initially it creates tremendous pressure, but we get used to it as we go along Nowadays we do not feel the difference, because we have adjusted to it and there is no additional pressure

8. When you play in front of the "home crowd" you have a distinct advantage They want what you want—a win This boosts the team When we play against foreign teams outside India, we know that we are the weaker side and in most cases we lose the match in the dressing room itself But when we play the same opponents in front of our spectators, we develop a fighting tendency

Like in the 1979 IFA Shield when we (East Bengal) played against a team from South Korea The whole team played an inspired game and we beat them in the semi final

9. It does blacklist them in the eyes of their former supporters After I switched from Mohun Bagan to East Bengal in 1974, I did not face any untoward situation but when I changed from East Bengal to Mohammedan Sporting in 1980, I faced a lot of trouble

Day in and day out, a section of people used to wait for me to shower me with abuse This year, while we were returning from Calicut after playing the Nagjee, I faced a peculiar situation We had reached the station at about 10 30 pm, but we learnt that due to some trouble the train would not leave till about 1 30 am

There were two Bengalis at the station that night They were talking with the players and even taking our autographs If I remember correctly, I had given one of them my autograph When the train was about to leave, however, they showered us with the choicest of invective and from what they said and the way they said it, it was quite clear that they were the supporters of a particular club

Last year a similar incident occurred We (Mohammedan Sporting) were going to Krishnanagar to play an exhibition match The train had stopped at Ranaghat station and suddenly there was a rush for the compartment in which we (the players) were travelling Suddenly, one particular boy fell at my feet and, shouting "Guru, guru" asked for my autograph Police intervened and asked me to oblige him, or else there might be trouble But when the train left the station, it was the very same boy who led the others in cursing me This section of the supporters wait for you, at various places where they know you will appear and start abusing you.

But they are not the majority I still believe that the majority of the East Bengal supporters love and respect me

CALCUTTA LEAGUE

The race is still on

As we go to press, Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan are still in the running for League honours, with the former leading the latter by a single point. On the other hand, the third big team, East Bengal, dropped yet another point during the week. SUBHASH SARCAR and SARAJIT DEB report on the matches

MOHUN BAGAN: At the time of going to press, the supporters of the home team are still hopeful of winning the Calcutta League this year They are one point behind the leaders, Mohammedan Sporting and in order to remain in the running, they must maintain a clean slate, winning all their matches The first match of the week, against Rajasthan, was very important for the home side as Rajasthan, with some promising players in their ranks, have figured very prominently in this year's League

Rajasthan made their presence felt as they started on a promising note, playing organised football They shot into the lead in the fifth minute of the match. Subhas Ray who has played for both Mohammedan Sporting and East Bengal, used his experience and sent the other fleet-footed winger Arun Nath with a through pass down the middle Arun cut in from the left flank and was chased by Sanjiv Choudhury, the Bagan right back.

Arun got the better of Sanjiv by virtue of sheer speed and sent the ball home from an acute angle. The custodian, Pratap Ghosh was somewhat responsible for the goal because despite the fact that he was standing at the near post, he could not stop the ball which found the small gap between him and the post Added to that, he dived too late

It is very often seen that after small teams score a goal they get bogged down and start playing defensive football But this was not the case with Rajasthan, who went straight into the attack and held territorial advantage. Had not stopper Subrata Bhattacharya and left-back Biswajit Bose (one witnessed another pleasing performance from this young player) not risen to the occasion, Mohun Bagan would have been in further danger. The pivot of the Mohun Bagan team, Gautam Sarkar, was failing and so the attacks that were being built up were not too constructive. Only Arup Das made some inroads into the opponents' territory. Perhaps thinking that he was not going to get much help from his fellow forwards, he started taking shots at the goal from outside the box. One such shot from the left corner of the box swerved and entered the far corner of the net, beating the Rajasthan custodian Tarun Dutta all ends up. In fact, people in the stands had started shouting at Arup for having taken such a rash shot as they had thought the shot was going out, but it curved in beautifully to prove his hecklers wrong.

After the interval, Mohun Bagan went all out for the lead but their forwards kept muffing chances, the worst offender being Ulaganathan when he had only the goalkeeper to beat About three minutes before full time, Ulaga sent a centre from the left flank. Both Arup Das and stopper Gautam Shome went for the header and Gautam, perhaps not being able to head the ball, brought it with by his hands and the referee did not hesitate in pointing to the dreaded spot. Subrata Bhattacharya, who had played good, sensible football throughout, made no mistake with a low grounder.

Rajasthan coach Shyamal Bose said: "My team was playing well but suddenly I do not know what happened They started playing defensive football. About the penalty; I still cannot believe my stopper had to resort to such means. The Mohun Bagan players did not have an open goal and there were a few minutes left for the match to end."

Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee said: "My players did not perform too well. Arup scored a very good goal. Subrata and Biswajit played very well in the defence."

The second match of the week was billed to be an important because Port Trust had defeated East Bengal just a few days previously With a few players in their ranks who represented Railways at the last Nationals, it was a much-awaited match, but it turned out to be a tame affair and Port Trust seemed to lose heart from the very beginning.

The home team began by attacking right from the word go and for a change, the forwards combined well. Arup Das and Surajit Sengupta worked hard and were very well assisted by Sujas Bera. Arup paved the way for the first goal (in the fifth minute) when he send a through pass for Shyam Thapa, who got past two stoppers with a deft dodge, beating the goalkeeper with a neat placement.

Before Mohun Bagan scored their second goal, the lead could have been neutralised had striker Monojit Das not fumbled in front of the goalmouth with custodian Pratap Ghosh at his mercy. The two goals that Mohun Bagan scored in the second half came



Prit Ghoshal of East Bengal fails to bring the ball under control during the League tie against Wan

one after another. From a Ulaganthan centre, Surajit send a cross to Arup Das, who made no mistake with a rising shot. The third goal for the side came from the boots of Surajit, with a deceptive shot after dodging past a few Port Trust defenders.

Port Trust coach Achyut Banerjee said: "My players failed to fight. They did not combine well and whatever chances they got, they failed to utilise." Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee said: "My players played better than in the previous match."

EAST BENGAL: The home team is in a mess this year Added to the internal trouble prevailing, Monoranjan Bhattacharya, their captain and most dependable defender has been called for the Asiad camp while the three Iranians, Majid, Jamshid and Khabazi, have left the city. It is a problem to field a side and any small side, provided it plays with determination, would be capable of snatching a point from East Bengal This was proved in the match against Kidderpore, against whom East Bengal could only manage a draw.

After the initial period, when the East Bengal forwards muffed a few chances, the home team shot into the lead, by virtue of what should be termed a fluke goal. A feeble kick by Joseph Machado hit the post, deflected, hit a defender and entered the net yet again, giving custodian Tarun Bose no time to save the situation The lead, however, was soon neutralised when striker Uttam Chakravarty, utilising the misunderstanding between the two stoppers cut in and with a high volley send the ball home for the equaliser.

That was a few minutes before the interval, at which stage Kidderpore enjoyed the better of the exchanges This trend continued in the second half but poor marksmanship deprived them of what should have been a well-deserved victory East Bengal also tried their best but could not make much headway They were so desperate that they substituted Premnath Philip for Moti Singh in the forward line, but even this move failed. Kidderpore coach Nirmal Sengupta said· "My players played better and created many openings but failed to utilise them. I think we deserved a victory because their goal was more of an accident."

BUT in the second match of the week, East Bengal put up a much better show even though they retained more or less the same team that had drawn against Kidderpore. They beat Wari quite convincingly and the 4-0 margin was a true indication of the superiority that the team held over their opponents. The man who guided them was none other than veteran Sudhir Karmakar, hero of many a battle. He was helped to a great extent by another veteran Samaresh Choudhury, who did not have the speed, used through passes quite often, thereby putting the Wari defenders in trouble on many an occasion



Subrota Bhattacharya tackles a Rajasthan player

In the forward line it was Priti Ghosal who caught the eye and who was instrumental in the first three goals for his team They shot into the lead in the third minute when Somenath Banerjee volleyed in a Priti centre Priti scored the second goal when, following a flag kick by Amalraj, the ball went to Moti Singh, who passed to Priti, who made no mistake from close

The third goal followed soon, this time through a penalty by Samaresh Choudhury Priti was tripped inside the box by a defender and the referee did not have any hesitation in awarding a penalty. East Bengal scored their last goal a few minutes before the final whistle when Moti Singh put the finishing touches to the ball after it had rebounded off the goalkeeper's hands from a Somenath Banerjee shot

Wari coach Amal Chakrabarty was too shocked "I simply cannot believe that my team played so badly I do not know what went wrong but it was a very poor performance"

MOHAMMEDAN S.C.: It was good to see the home team register a victory after their shocking draw against gutsy Salkia Friends—regarded as the 'little giants'—in their earlier engagement. "Against Salkia we played with a few injured players", said Abdus Sattar However, the comprehensive win over lowly-placed Customs has given back the black-and-white shirts confidence and they are back in the running for the coveted title Now they will have to win all their remaining League matches if they are to take the prestigious title

With the absence of stalwarts Bhaskar Ganguly, Prasun Banerjee, Shabbir Ali and Bidesh Bose who are at the Asiad camp at Secunderabad, Mohammedan Sporting looked an unbalanced side on paper But they were lucky that Kartick Seth was available to do duty for the home side, as he opened the account eight minutes after the start, off a Manash Bhattacharya centre

In this lacklustre encounter, Mohammedan S C could have triumphed by a larger margin had their forwards not frittered away several opportunities On the other hand, Customs failed miserably to put up any resistance, with the result that the home side literally danced around the defence

"Customs dominated the midfield for some time but they lacked penetration That was all", said Sattar He added "If anyone performed well it was their goalkeeper Kushal Banerjee" Yes, Kushal did play well and on a number of occasions he foiled sure chances

Realising the team's shortcomings without the four Asiad probables Manash shouldered the burden in the frontline He gave teammate Kartick Seth the first goal, but the latter was the worst offender in the second half,

Maidan musings



East Bengal vs Kidderpore Tarun Bose of Kidderpore lists the ball over the crosspiece

THE Mohun Bagan players enjoy a good relationship among themselves. The whole atmosphere in the tent after the practice sessions is very jovial. What adds to the whole atmosphere is the fact that their coach, Sankar Banerjee, once played with some of the senior players in the side, and so they are on friendly terms

The other day two smart young girls entered the tent (after the practice sessions), introduced themselves and said that they wanted to meet the players Shivaji Banerjee, Ulaganathan and this correspondent were sitting near the entrance when they came in Shivaji, the smart one said: "Yes, come in, I'm Shivaji Banerjee and that is Ulaganathan " To which the girls replied "We know you, but we want to meet the other players" Shivaji told them where to go and and then with a sudden grin he told me: "Do you want to see some fun?" He called out to Sujas Bera, who was sitting some distance away "Sujas, these girls have come to meet you " One could not help but notice Sujas blushing Later Shivaji said "Sujas is very shy because he comes from a village. He's yet to get used to the ways of Calcutta " After the girls went away, Sujas requested Shivaji "Why do you have to do this to me, Shivajida?" That for you is Sujas Bera and the atmosphere at the tent

THE Mohammedan Sporting camp is understandably quite worried They are very near achieving the title after a lapse of 14 long years. But there can always be many a slip between the cup and the lip and that is what they are all worried about Five of their players were at the Asiad Camp (although Kartick Sett later reinforced their side), so they had cause to worry They still have a few matches left and know that they have to win every one in order to take top honours They were so worried that they recalled Md Akbar, who was on holiday in Hyderabad, his home town Almost all the Muslim players had left for home to celebrate their festival (Id) and it was expected that they would not be back before the start of the IFA Shield But, in spite of an injury, Akbar had to rush back because his team was in danger

The morning practice sessions at their ground have become very strict Even those who are only slightly injured (like Akbar) are not spared But they do not have to go through the strenuous sessions the other players go through While the other players form two teams and play matches at one end of the ground, those that are injured practise shooting at the other post. As Akbar said: "I must be fit to play the matches because I'll be sorely needed in the team " These players also leave the field early, of course after taking permission from coach Abdus Sattar.

IN direct contract is the atmosphere prevailing in the East Bengal camp. A pall of glooms has set in and everyone—spectators, supporters and officials—seem to have been affected. First, there was this controversy involving the coach and the three Iranians after which the former, Santo Mitro, refused to come to the ground. This meant that practice sessions were being conducted by skipper Monoranjan Bhattacharya, with the help of the other senior players of the team.

But after Monoranjan went away to join the Asiad coaching camp, there was practically no one to look after the team. Then they lost to Port Trust and later drew with Kidderpore (after their defeat at the hands of Mohun Bagan) and this added fuel to the fire.

Supporters began wanting for the players in order to shower them with the choicest of abuse. Things reached such a stage that the place where the out-station players are staying was kept under lock and key for 14 hours with a durwan keeping a close vigil. No one (not even members of the Press) was allowed to enter without the permission of the general secretary or the football secretary.

Most of the out-station players work at an office in central Calcutta and tension was running so high that these players stopped going to office. It is not that these players do a lot of work, but they do attend office at some time or other in the course of the day. The officials must take some drastic measure if they soon want to bring an end to this lean period.

THAT players in general are a very nervous lot was amply demonstrated during the Mohun Bagan-Rajasthan match The game was heading towards a draw when, three to four minutes before the final whistle, Mohun Bagan were awarded a penalty.

While Subrata Bhattacharya went to take the spot kick, the custodian, Pratap Ghosh preferred not to look at what was going on. He had turned his back on the field and was facing the gallery instead. The captain of the team, Pradip Choudhury, sat down on the ground and put his head on his knees, not wanting to see what was going on. After he heard the cheers of the crowd, he touched his forehead with both hands, perhaps thanking the Almighty for saving the match for Mohun Bagan. He was near the centre-line and next to him stood two young players of the side, Arup Das and Biswajit Bose. As soon as they "heard" the goal, they hugged each other in joy. The players were not the only nervous ones. There were a lot of supporters who also did not see the all-important goal either.

Grave injustice

WILL the All-India Football Federation ever, decide once and for all what they want to do? It was a novel idea to start preparing for the Asian Games, almost two years in advance. However, right from the beginning, there were doubts as to whether the planning will go according to schedule. They received a setback when 21 Calcutta players left the first camp. What followed in now old hat, but ultimately the AIFF got the directive from the Government that they would have to suspend the players who will not join the camp in future.

But isn't the AIFF doing an injustice to the players who remained loyal when the 21 players left the camp. There were several players from the three big teams who attended the coaching camp and therefore could not play for their clubs in the initial matches of the Calcutta League After the coaching period, the players selected from the camp were scheduled to play a tournament in Dacca

The AIFF failed to seek permission from the Government to make the trip and the selected players were left high and dry, but were assured that they would be called for the next camp and considered for the team that is to play in the Merdeka.

When the camp started, seven more players were called on to reinforce the players already selected Two days after these seven star players (the seven were among the 21 who had left the first camp) joined the training camp, two youngsters, Arup Das and Kartick Sett, were told that they were wanted by their respective clubs in Calcutta and they had the permission to leave the camp and play for their sides.

Both came back by air and both are now assisting their sides, Arup with Mohun Bagan and Kartick, with Mohammedan Sporting.

It was certainly a grave injustice on the part of the AIFF to have sent back these two young players. If they were to be recalled, why were they called for the second camp? Was it that the players who were in the reckoning for the Indian team recently slumped so badly that the AIFF officials decided to do away with them after watching them for just two to three days during the present camp? It is high time the AIFF officials stuck to their plans and gave the players a fair trial.

SARAJIT DEB



The goalkeeper and a Customs defender thwart a Manash threat

missing the easiest of chances—after beating the goalkeeper he had only to push the ball home, but he missed The move culminating in the second goal was also spearheaded by Manash who centred for Tapan Das to boot home

What followed was a tale of missed chances by substitute Denis Williamson (replacing Akbar who limped off after the first goal) and Manash himself But he rounded off the tally before the final whistle, when he played a one-two with linkman Uttam Mazumdar to dart inside the box, beating the Customs custodian with a grounder.

Said Satter "I won't say we performed brilliantly We played in patches We are facing a handicap but we are trying to adjust ourselves slowly At least we will have to make do with whatever material we have"

CONSTANT pounding by the Mohammedan Sporting forwards sent neighbours Howrah Union reeling to the tune of three goals However, this match was indeed a hurdle for the home team, but if anyone played like a giant on that day it was the Howrah custodian Haider Ali Mondal Said Howrah Union coach Nikhil Nandy "My goalkeeper played a major role In fact, he played 90 per cent of the match" True enough, it was Mohammedan S C versus Haidar Ali Mondal and it was only because of the indomitable Mondal that the black-and-whites were restricted to only three goals

Playing on the common ground, Mohammedan S C took nearly ten minutes to settle down, after which they attacked mercilessly through Nirmal Chatterjee and Kartick Sett Although Howrah Union played their opponents on equal terms initially, things started going wrong when medio Prasanta Banerjee finally succeeded in sending a diagonal cross to Manash Bhattacharya, who flicked in after beating two defenders "This goal was due to a gross mistake on the part of my defenders," said Nandy, adding, "We nearly equalised a few minutes later the ball deflected off Moidul's body towards the goal, but it was timely saved by Aloke Mukherjee Had that resulted in a goal, the story would have been different"

The Howrah goalkeeper continued to be impressive, saving stunning shots from six-yard range One of them was a rasping volley from Prasant a diving Mondal grasped onto the ball with the kind of confidence which only seasoned goalkeepers can exhibit

But three minutes later, Prasanta passed to an offside Kartick to boot home from close One cannot understand how referee Shanti Gupta could overlook this glaring breach "The second goal was offside There is no doubt about it," said a disappointed Nandy He added with a sarcastic smile, "The IFA secretary Ashok Mitra, who was watching the match, also commented that 'this was the limit' However, the third goal by Kartick was a suicidal one"

The only mistake by Haidar Ali Mondal cost his side dearly when he failed to gather a low Chinmoy Chatterjee centre and Kartick shot in Thereafter, Kartick tried desperately to get his hat trick but it eluded him

"I am the one who has been deceived I told the boys to play attacking football but they didn't My wingers in particular let me down by going inside thus allowing the wing-backs to overlap," said Nikhil Nandy, continuing, "Also, my right-out let us down Since my forwards could do nothing I put substitute Pradip Roy in as a third medio"

Mohammedan S C coach Sattar looked optimistic but cautiously commented "I am still keeping my fingers crossed The win was a great relief because the Howrah boys traditionally play the role of a thorn in Mohammedan S C's flesh I am quite satisfied with the performance of the boys, especially on a slushy ground Prasanta, as usual, played very well But I am terribly sorry for Kartick who missed the hat-trick he so richly deserved"

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SERVICES AQUATICS

Southern command excel



Sitaram Sawoo—best swimmer

SOUTHERN COMMAND once again exhibited their undoubted prowess to retain the Services Aquatics and Waterpolo titles in the recent XXXI Championships held at Fort William, Calcutta. Central Command finished second with 123 points—33 points behind the champions—and lost the waterpolo final 2-6. Though the Indian Navy was expected to go great guns, they had to be content with third spot and this was probably due to the fact that the navymen are more accustomed to hard water than to the crystal clear, blue pools of the Fort. However, Navy's MER P. Madhavdas was one of the proud members who stood against Southern's sweep and pipped Ranbir Singh in the 400 m individual medley. The other two were Indian Air Force's Cpl. Sitaram Sawoo and Eastern Command's evergreen Hav Ramkumar. In fact, Mindapore-born Sawoo, who stole the limelight in the meet with a new national mark and who emerged the best swimmer, is none other than the son of Rajaram Sawoo. The elder Sawoo was a member of the gold medal-winning waterpolo team in the inaugural Asian Games and an expert in the freestyle and backstroke events.

A real chip of the old block, Sitaram erased the 200 m freestyle mark in the name of Services' M. S. Rana (2:10.02) when he clocked 2:09.6 and the national mark (2.10) also held by Rana since 1977.

"This is an achievement indeed. But I have yet to get a gold in the Nationals, though I came fourth at Lucknow last year. I hope to break the 100 m freestyle record too. Although I won the event I could not break the record because of a bad start," said Sawoo. The airman clocked 0:58.4 sec. "But I intend to break Police's Somashekaran's 100 m freestyle record (0:57.1) which he set at the Lucknow Nationals," asserted Sawoo. He has been selected for the Patiala camp and since he is only 20 he will probably be able to fulfil his father's wish—becoming a national champion.

Hav. Ramkumar gave the hosts the maximum points, winning the gruelling 1,500 m event, with a timing of 19:25.0.Hav. S. J. Stephen of Southern Command came second, taking his revenge when he beat Ramkumar in the 400 m freestyle However, the Services record still exists in the name of Ramkumar.

Though every swimmer played an important role in Southern's victory, the pivotal roles were played by Nk Atmaram Kadam and Nk Ganeshan. Both are butterfly experts but while the former reigned supreme in the 200 m, Ganeshan pipped him in the 100 m butterfly in a record-breaking feat. He did so in great style, clipping exactly by one second off his own mark of 1:06.2, while Atmaram also bettered his own timing by 0.2 seconds. Earlier, Ganeshan shattered Central's Nk. Ramadhar Jha's 200 m individual medley mark of 2 37 1 when he clocked 2:35.8.

Said Southern Command coach C. Shammugan. "The secret of our achievement is that our swimmers are trained for nearly ten months throughout the year. We have two centres in Bangalore's MEG and Kirkee's BEG where great stress is placed on swimming However, the performance is centred around the Services Aquatics only We cannot go further because we lack training facilities, and that perhaps is our major difficulty Yet we were able to set five new Services records. I am happy that Atmaram bettered his own 200 m butterfly mark with a timing of 2:26.1 (2:29.6) and one must congratulate Ganeshan of MEG for his two brilliant records. Both attended the first Asiad camp at Madras Atmaram has been dropped because of his age, while the younger Ganeshan had been selected for Patiala Both are good in the butterfly, but there are even better swimmers in Ashis Chakraborty, the Purkait brothers and Kerala's Babu

"Ganeshan, however, was dropped later as he failed to attain the qualifying mark of the last Asian Games. We excelled in the two freestyle relays, setting records in both events," concluded Shammugan Southern's Ranbir Singh, too, has given everything for his team, winning the 200 m breaststroke gold and a couple of silver medals.

L/Hav Bazri Singh gave Central its first gold in the 200 m backstroke while the 100 m first position was claimed by Wazir Singh, who finished at a terrific speed. The third gold was won by Babulal Mandy, who surpassed Ranbir Singh in the third lap at 30 metres in the 100 m breaststroke. But none of the three could claim the honour of a record.

A CORRESPONDENT, Calcutta

Ganeshan finishing the 100m butterfly



Sportspeople

Coaching problems

AFTER having acquired a diploma in football from NIS, Patiala *Nayeemuddin Syed* did not just idle away his time. He had one ambition in mind. to get a coaching diploma abroad in order to make his mark as a coach in India, even at the cost of his job with the Fertiliser Corporation of India.

He went to Budapest for a six-month coaching course at the Hungarian University of Physical Education (Postgraduate Institute), finished with flying colours and is now "qualified for coaching activity in the sports branch of soccer". In order to do so, he claimed whatever leave he had, while he drew half wages for the remaining period.

He obtained a "very good" in sports psychology, sports pedagogy, anatomy and sports physiology, theory of soccer and ability of leading training work in soccer. In training theory and methodology, gymnastics theory and practical leading (including sports organisation) he received "good" grading.

"Before taking up this venture I wrote to places like West Germany, the UK, East Germany and Hungary for the advance course. I did get a favourable response from West Germany and the UK but I declined as the duration of the course was fairly long, thereby involving more money However, I was still undecided as to what I should do I had to seek proper advice and I went to Mr Jyotish Guha, Arun Sinha and Dr Kalyan Mukherjee, all of whom I respect profoundly All three were unanimous that I should go to Hungary", said Nayeem

The major problem, of course, was finance, since there was no one to sponsor him "East Germany accept the names which are sponsored by Patiala In my case, Patiala would have never recommended my name because I had exposed what was going on there and how the bosses treated both students and internationals," stated the international footballer However, he added, "I wanted to do the course in a country other than Germany or the UK as most Indian coaches who have done their courses abroad have mainly been trained in either of these countries"

"Let me make one thing clear The system in Budapest is altogether different from that in Patiala. In fact, it was so simple, very practical, methodical and scientific They treat you like a human being there, not as they do at Patiala At the Hungarian institute they really respect and guide you properly They treated me as if I was one of them, an attitude that is sorely lacking at Patiala

"Since I knew that I would not be sponsored I wrote everywhere to my well-wishers to help me in my need. Of course, first I wrote to the University



Grants Commission who advised me to write to the Education Ministry The latter asked me to get the recommendation of the All-India Football Federation. I feel Mr Ashok Ghosh, AIFF secretary, did recommend my name, but surprisingly, even after I had finished my coaching course at Budapest there was still no letter of recommendation forthcoming

"However, I must sincerely thank Mohammedan Sporting for granting me Rs 10,000. This apart, ex officials of the club also came forward generously and the West Bengal Council of Sports sanctioned Rs 5,000. When players in Calcutta heard about my plight they came forward to stage a charity match at Metiabruz in which Subrata Bhattacharya, Prasun Banerjee, Moidul Islam, Kannan, David Williams, Parimal Dey, Nasir Ahmed and Mir Kasim along with some others played Former Mohammedan S.C president Sk Anwar Ali was the chief guest. I received Rs 7,000 from this match. Regarding foreign exchange, my relatives abroad helped me out"

Nayeem looked a bit worried: "Now I have to repay a massive loan I will have to remind the Education Ministry to sanction a grant because they promised to do so if I was recommended by the AIFF. If the Ministry rejects my plea then I will be compelled to seek the help of the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, because I have nowhere to go"

"I am ready to start coaching anywhere, provided the terms and conditions, coupled with a congenial atmosphere, are suitable to me. A club in Nigeria wanted me to coach them but I said that I would let them know My intention is to coach the national team so that India can gain a solid footing among the leading Asian neighbours, but that seems to be a far cry from the present situation I am stressing on this because in India we start late whereas coaching abroad begins when a prospective footballer is 8-10 years of age. "My ambition is to go to West Germany, probably for a short-term course. I hear that there is such a course in that country. Mr Absar Sattar, who is very influential and is respected by the Germans, is eager to help me out. But I will have to proceed through the proper channels, getting Mr Ziauddin and Mr Ashok Ghosh to recommend my name for a scholarship once again otherwise it will have to be the same old procedure—seeking for alms.

The man who stole the show

THE star performer for India against the mighty Locomotives Club from Siberia who recently toured the country to take part in an eight-match basketball Test series, was undoubtedly *Hanuman Singh*. This Rajasthan boy, who was also the senior-most player in the team, displayed excellent thrust and gusto in his dribbling. He moved like a whiplash, at a speed which forced the Russians to fall back on the defensive time and again. He combines well with his own teammate Ajmer Singh with whom he has an excellent understanding. Ajmer fully utilises the feeding by Hanuman

A product of the Government College of Ajmer, which is known as the nursery of Indian basketball, Hanuman was fond of cricket and football and it was only in his last year at King George's Military School that he took to basketball. The noted basketball coach Bhagwan Singh found enough talent in Hanuman and advised him to take up the game seriously. However, he continued to play cricket and football for his college In cricket he was a medium-pacer and in football he excelled as a striker, even playing for the Rajasthan University football team

Hanuman made his international debut when he was chosen to play for India in the Asian Basketball Championship at Tokyo in 1970 Since then he has been a regular member of the Indian team A winner of the Arjuna Award, Hanuman is a post-graduate in history and works for Shriram Rayons at Kota as a sports officer.

Hanuman comes from a family of decorated soldiers. He wanted to join the army as a commissioned officer, but had to change his mind to build up a career in sport During the Moscow Olympics, the former Russian Olympian Boloshev described Hanuman and Ajmer as international class players after their noteworthy performances there. He noted a strange fact about the Indian team. He found that Hanuman was so fast that other members of the team had a hard time keeping pace with him. He has the power to control the entire game.

Hanuman feels that with more competition, India could do well at the international level.

News round-up

Who is to head TTFI?

JULLUNDUR: After the appointment of S. P. Bagla as economic councillor in the Indian Embassy at Washington the question whether he will be able to continue as president of the Table Tennis Federation of India should best be left unanswered. But it must be admitted that TTFI working has moved on a healthy footing under Bagla's leadership.

Only some time ago, two countries, Vietnam and Cuba, played a series of Tests with Indian table tennis teams and recently the Indian team played at the World Championships at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia The coming months are going to be busy for the Indian table tennis team.

India will be taking part in three international table tennis tournaments at Pyongyang, North Korea in the last week of August, Open Swedish Championships in December and sixth Asian Table Tennis Championships at Djakarta in Indonesia. The Indian Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs 3,00,000 to cover the cost of air passages of the Indian team.

Moreover, the Egyptian Table Tennis Association has asked India to take part in the fifth Junior Open Table Tennis Championship at Suez, beginning from October 24 this year. The TTFI however, has not taken any decision so far on whether to participate or not. The reason is that they are awaiting governmental financial aid.

The Sixth Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships will be organised at Bombay in February next year. The Maharashtra Table Tennis Association has accepted the proposal of the TTFI. An amount of Rs 10,000 will be paid to the TTFI whereas the association will get Rs 50,000 as a grant for the championship. The TTFI recently requested the Government to provide a lady coach for the Indian women teams, but no word has so far come from the Government If the demand is not met, the TTFI may ask for a coach from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia or Hungary. The TTFI has also been informed that Indian teams will always be coached by NIS coaches and not by the coaches of the federation

The competition in table tennis in the Asian Games will be held at Pragati Maidan. This was disclosed at the executive committee meeting of TTFI, held recently at Delhi. The federation has signed contracts with two Japanese firms for the supply of table tennis equipment for the Asian Games The firms are Nippon Takkyu Co. Ltd., and Tamasu Company.

BSA Cycles has offered to start an inter-school table tennis tournament, provided it can be held in one of the Southern States. It has been learnt that their representative recently met M. C Chauhan, secretary, TTFI in this connection. TTFI is considering a proposal to extend it to an all-India level tourney.

The long-standing dispute between TTFI and Bengal Table Tennis Association has at last been resolved. It had begun regarding the accounts of the fifth Asian Championships As a result, the association will receive Rs 50,000 in Government money The booty will be shared by the two parties.

The Eastern India Championship will be organised at Calcutta in September this year At first, Bihar had been given the offer to organise it, but the State did not seem very enthusiastic about it Later, Assam proposed to conduct it from November 18 to 27 at Gauhati, but the TTFI did not give permisssion

Punjab will organise the Northern India Table Tennis Championship from September 2 to 6 Earlier, the PTTA had decided to conduct it at Patiala, but now the venue seems likely to be changed At first the Jammu and Kashmir Table Tennis Association had been asked to organise it, but they expressed their inability to do so

About 100 applications have been received by the TTFI for the seventh international umpires' examinations to be held in November this year It is obvious that the TTFI is not in favour of everybody appearing at the examination A technical committee is likely to be set up by TTFI for scrutiny of the applications

The Table Tennis Federation of India has not accepted the demand of Tawal industries for the approval of Milano table tennis balls for the Nationals

HARBANS SINGH VIRDI

RACE DRAMA Italian Andrea de Cesaris (in crash helmet) runs from his Marlboro McLaren race car after he ended up in the catch fencing when an incident occurred in the fourth lap of the recent British Grand Prix at Silverstone Incidentally the Saudi Williams of Australian Alan Jones (the current world champion) also landed up off the track—after the Ferrari of Giles Villeneuve of Canada, spun coming out of the Woolcote chicane Belfast-born John Watson won the race



CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

One Ball— Five Batsmen Out!

That popular cricketer and commentator, the late Arthur Gilligan, once asked, in an article he wrote for *Wisden* "Do you know how five men can be dismissed with only one ball bowled?"

He admitted "of course, you must allow a certain amount of licence in this respect" but went on to say that, actually, once in a County match when play was due to resume it was found that one of the overnight not-out batsmen had taken a wrong train and at 11 30 am was miles from the scene of conflict

Arthur continued "The umpires, on appeal, ruled that the batsman was 'absent' and could not continue his innings There is the first man out "The next comes in and the bowler delivers a no-ball, which naturally does not count as a legitimate delivery The striker hit it towards coverpoint and calls his partner for a run His partner, seeing that there is not the slightest chance of a quick single, sends back the striker who unfortunately slips and falls to the ground The ball is returned to the wicketkeeper and No 2 is run out, still with no legitimate ball being bowled

"No 3 arrives and hits the first ball, a half-volley, with terrific force straight back at his partner, who receives the ball right in the middle of the forehead

"The ball bounces in the air and mid-off catches it easily No 3 is out, caught, No 4 is also out—knocked out—and is carried off the field unconscious and when No 5 (who is No 11 in the batting list) comes to the wicket he finds he has no-one with whom to bat

"So there you have five men out with one ball bowled "

After that fanciful start, Arthur presented what he described as another very interesting poser

As he put it, "Jones is bowling to Smith with Robinson the non-striker Smith hits a very hard return catch to the bowler, who just touches the ball and deflects it on to the wicket Robinson is out of his crease and the ball, without touching the ground, ricochets off the stumps into the hands of mid-on Who is out? Is Smith out caught, or is Robinson run out?"

QUESTION 1 What do you say?

****

Another poser put the former England captain

"The striker plays the ball a few yards up the wicket and calls his partner for a sharp single Mid-off dashes in and the striker, seeing that a run is impossible, turns back to his crease but in doing so, kicks the ball into his wicket

"With the striker well out of his ground, the balls drop off and the umpire gives him out "

QUESTION 2 As Gilligan put it in his *Wisden* article How is the striker out?

****

Arthur claimed that the extraordinary material for another of his conundrums was actually provided by a match in New Zealand. This is how he told it "The last two batsmen are in, the last ball of the game is about to be delivered and two runs are necessary for victory

"The bowler runs up and sends down a good length ball to the striker, who takes a terrific swipe at it, sending the ball a tremendous way in the air When it reaches the apex of its flight, the ball breaks in two pieces Mid-on shouts 'Mine' and catches half the ball 'You're out,' says the fielder 'No, I'm not ' retorts the batsman. 'The other half of the ball is on the ground '

"An appeal is made to the umpire who rightly decides that this particular delivery should not count and sends for another ball as much as possible like the one which has been discarded and play is resumed The bowler is so excited by the occurrence that he sends down a full toss to leg, the batsman hits it straight to the square leg boundary and the match is won by the batting side "

Arthur Gilligan said this case was sent to the MCC Committee for a ruling, the result being that the umpire's action was unanimously upheld On the subject of substitution of another ball as much as possible similar to the one discarded, Arthur recalled an incident in the second Test between England and Australia at Melbourne in 1925

"After only 15 runs were on the board—I was bowling at the time—" he wrote, "I noticed that a great piece of leather had come off the ball I immediately showed the ball to umpire Bob Crocket, who consulted his collegue and a brand new ball was brought out

"Before lunch that day we had no fewer than four new balls, with the total no more than 87! When we adjourned it was discovered that, by mistake, a wrong packet of balls had been delivered to the ground and that we had No 3 grade cricket balls instead of No 1

When England did bat a second time one of their stars became the first batsman to score a hundred in each innings of a Test against Australia and became the first to score three successive hundreds in Test cricket

QUESTION 3 Who was this batsman?

****

In the fifth match of this England-Australia series—the 1924-25 series—Arthur Gilligan was one of 11 victims claimed by an Australian bowler making his debut

QUESTION 4 Who was the bowler?

****

In the same Test an English bowling partner of Arthur Gilligan on County and Test level took nine wickets (4/92 and 5/115) to bring his total for the series to 38. This was the record for a Test rubber in Australia for 54 years—until broken by Rodney Hogg, with 41 wickets in 1978-79—and is still the record for an English bowler in a Test series in Australia

QUESTION 5 Who was the bowler?

****

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Hanif Mohammad, who made 160 before he was run out His partner in the record second-wicket stand, Saeed Ahmed, made 121.

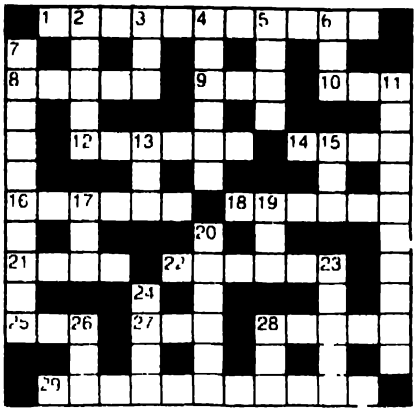
2 Alec Bedser

3 Ted Dexter. His spectacular 76 included one six and 14 fours

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

112



ACROSS

1 Patterson, Marciano and Moore all belong to this category (5, 6)
8 Mixed steak at races (5)
9 John Reid New Zealand to their first Test victory (3)
10 Toss up in tennis (3)
12 Dig these suits (6)
14 Make runs laboriously (4)
16 This international athletics trophy was held for the first time in 1965 (6)
18 Horizontal strokes in sprints (6)
20 Runner deficient in speed (4)
22 Hockey goalkeepers and wicketkeepers have to always be up (6)
25 Lost in sin at Patiala (1, 1, 1)
27 Ramesh Krishnan won a tournament sponsored by this airline (1, 1, 1)
28 Twenty-two in snooker (5)
29 Little Miss Awesome (5, 6)

DOWN

2 Tumbled weather-cocks make ace English wicketkeeper (5)
3 Scotland and England for the Calcutta Cup (3)
4 Cricketer sounds like night-gowned nursery-rhyme boy (6)
5 Christian name of bespectacled Indian T T Champ (4)
6 This football team makes planes in Bangalore (1, 1, 1)
7 First Christian martyr begins Olympic boxing gold medallist (1, 9)
11 Bridge term begins Calcutta footballer (6, 4)
13 Shortened Pataudi mixed up ranks tennis players (1, 1, 1)
15 Hutton initially (1, 1, 1)
17 Narasimha's surname (3)
19 Initial help administered to injured sportsmen (3)
20 Russian football team that toured India, climbs (6)
23 I held the first jumbled Asian Games (5)
24 Australian tennis player encloses something on the way back (4)
26 Knighted Sobers (3)
28 Manufacturers of Vampire hockey sticks (1, 1, 1)

Quiz

Ravi Ghosh

QUESTIONS

With what sport or game do you associate the following

1) Multiple block
2) Western roll
3) Wrong 'un
4) Lock
5) In-off
6) Green
7) Clinger
8) Flick
9) Backboard
10) Round-the-head

ANSWERS

1) Volleyball
2) Athletics (High jump)
3) Cricket
4) Rugby
5) Billiards
6) Golf
7) Squash rackets
8) Field hockey
9) Basketball
10) Badminton

Question box

Biswajit Kar, Jayanagar
Q What are the birth dates of Ian Botham and Kapil Dev?
A Ian Botham born on 24 11 1955 and Kapil Dev on 6 1 1959

Sumantaku Das, Silchar
Q What is Vinoo Mankad's full name?
A Mulvantrai Himmatlal Mankad

Prabal Guha, Chabua
Q Who has captured maximum wickets in a Test series?
A S F Barnes of England who captured the record number of 49 wickets in a 5 Test series vs South Africa in South Africa in 1913 14

Sarat Kumar Misra, Titilagarh.
Q Who was India's first captain and how many Tests did he play?
A C K Nayudu, who played 7 Tests for India and led in 4 of them

V. Naveen, Secunderabad, Santanu Samajpati, Purulia
Q What are the birth dates of Sarfraz Nawaz, Ian Botham, Mike Brearley and Clive Lloyd?
A Sarfraz Nawaz was born on 1 12 1948, Ian Botham on 24 11 1955, Mike Brearley on 28 4 1942 and Clive Lloyd on 31 8 1944

Ifran Khan, Dhanbad.
Q Is it true that M A K Pataudi has taken a Test wicket? If so, give the details
A. Yes, M A K Pataudi has captured one wicket in a Test match, that of M C Cowdrey (l b w –b Pataudi 38) in the 5th Test vs England at Kanpur in 1963-64
Q Which country has recorded the highest total and what was the highest score by a player in the said total?
A. 903 for 7 decl by England in the 5th Test vs Australia in 1938, when Len Hutton scored 364 as highest score
Q. Could you please give me a brief life history of Suresh Saraiya a Test commentator?
A. Suresh Saraiya, 42-year Cricket commentator of All India Radio, has been giving commentary since 1968, he is a public relations officer in Central Bank of India, Bombay He has travelled widely for cricket commentary on ABC, BBC as well as New Zealand and West Indies

Kakoli Banerjee, Durgapur
Q A ball is hit and the two batsmen complete one run, just then a dog comes on the field and runs away with the ball to the boundary How many runs are scored?
A The umpire will call it a dead ball and allow just one run to the batsman This amounts to lost ball

G Raghavendra Rao, Hyderabad.
Q How many catches did Whatmore of Australia hold in the India-Australia series in India in 1979 80?
A 12 catches in 5 Tests

M Nagaraj, Gorantla, D. Sridhar Reddy Hanamkonda(AP)
Q What is M A K Pataudi's highest score in Tests?
A 203 n o vs England at Delhi in 1963 64

A K. Chowdhury, Dumri
Q. What is India's highest total in Tests? Give details
A. 644 for 7 decl in the 6th Test vs West Indies at Kanpur in 1978-79

Debi Prasad Sarkar, Jamshedpur
Q. What were the scores of the famous "tie" between Australia and West Indies?
A. West Indies, batting first scored 453 and Australia replied with 505 West Indies in their attempt made 284 to which Australia answered with 232 West Indies made 737 and Australia too made 737

Samuel Karia, Trivandrum
Q Who was that Aussie bowler who performed the hat-trick in both innings against South Africa in 1912?
A. T J Matthews performed the hat-trick in South Africa's both innings in the same afternoon

Roshan Lal Bhat, Hangalgund, Kokaraug (J & K)
Q Which bowler captured the first wicket for India in Tests?
A Mohammad Nissar captured the first wicket for India--Herbert Sutcliffe whom Nissar clean-bowled for 3

Gautam Paul, Gaya
Q When was Greg Chappell born? What is his Test record?
A Greg Chappell was born on 4 8 1948 and in 67 Tests for Australia, he has scored 5719 runs @ 54 99 with 18 centuries, 28 fifties He has also captured 43 wickets and led Australia in 33 Tests

Anil Kumar Kalu, Srinagar.
Q What is India's highest total against New Zealand?
A 537 for 3 wickets decl in the fifth Test at Madras in 1955-56

Miss Reshma Kumari, Bangalore.
Q. Please give the addresses of Vishwanath, Kapil Dev, Dilip Doshi, Srinivasan, Yashpal and Shivlal Yadav?
A. You may write to the respective Cricket Associations who would arrange to forward your letters to the respective cricketers

Biswajeet Pradhan, Nowgong.
Q. What is Test record of Peter Willey of England?
A. Tests 16, Innings 30, N O 5, Runs 744, Highest score 102 n o , Average. 29 76, 100's 2, 50's 3 and 0's 1

Debashis Kumar Guha, Calcutta.
Q Who was the first bowler to take a hat-trick in Test cricket?
A. F R Spofforth of Australia, who performed the hat-trick against England at Melbourne in 1878-79

H. N. Ramakrishna, Dalliirathara.
Q. Who were the first victims of Kapil Dev, Roger Binny and Andy Roberts in Test Cricket?
A. Sadiq Mohammad of Pakistan was Kapil Dev's first victim, Imran Khan of Pakistan was Binny's first victim and C M Old of England was Andy Robert's first victim in Tests

Sekhar Baruah, Dibrugarh.
Q. How many runs did Gavaskar make in the calendar year 1980?
A. 327 runs in 3 Tests

Deepak Kumar Nag.
Q. Please give me the addresses of Sandeep Patil Ravi Shastri
A. You may write to them care of Bombay Cricket Association, Wankhede Stadium, Churchgate, Bombay 400 020

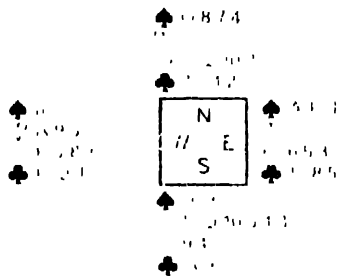
Kalyan Kumar Paul, Haldia.
Q. How many wickets have been captured by Croft, Garner, Holding, Roberts, Botham and Willis in the 1980-81 Tests series between West Indies and England?
A. In the 4-Test series between West Indies and England in West Indies in 1980-81, Croft got 24 wickets, Garner 10, Holding 17, Roberts 8, Botham 15 and Willis nil

M. K. Sinha, Rourkela.
Q. If a batsman collides with a fielder while taking a run and falls down and before he can get up and make his ground, the ball has hit the stump Will the batsman be declared out or will he be not out?
A. Out, run out

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

[illegible] by technician *Learn Bridge from the Experts* by David Bird[illegible], but I'm not [illegible] opening another hand from the book. It [illegible] deceptively [illegible] Kantar Hoffmann [illegible] South, to make [illegible] and West [illegible] and East [illegible] with the deal



[illegible] West [illegible] at love all, opened [illegible] pass [illegible] and [illegible] Hoffmann [illegible] with the Blackwood [illegible] to show [illegible] aces.

[illegible] had [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



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Design Distinction

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- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

Colour Charisma

- Dark
- Medium
- [illegible]
- Greys
- Fawn
- Beige

Texture Trend

- [illegible]
- Weaves
- Flannels

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28 AUGUST 1981

Sportsworld



TONY LEWIS and VENKAT on the rebirth of an amazing captain

MIKE BREARLEY: Resurrection from the Ashes

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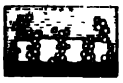
Bacteria grow in food particles left between your teeth These can cause bad odour and, later, painful decay

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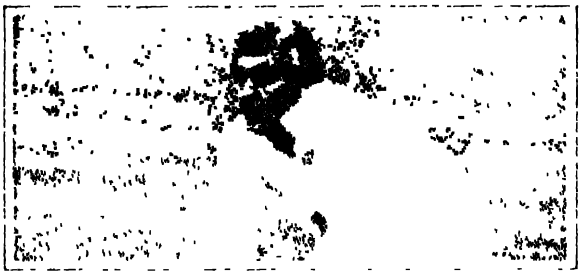
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The recent news reports about the West Bengal Income Tax Department res tarting proceedings against soccer players raises some vital questions Firstly is amateurism outdated? Secondly, how badly do our sportsmen need the money?



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With England in the doldrums the only man capable of restoring his country's fortress was former skipper Mike Brearley TONY LEWIS VENKAT and RAJU MUKHERJEE assess an extraordinary leader

27 CHRIS LLOYD SPEAKS OUT
Her tennis ha drawn plenty of comments but her love life has been the topic of much greater speculation In this article she tells how she and Connors drifted apart and how she found happiness with John Lloyd



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Letters to the Editor

Sunny vs Bedi

K R WADHWANEY's interview with Bedi made interesting reading It is really lamentable that a player, who had a meteoric debut in Test cricket, must also have a disgraceful retirement One cannot help wondering about Sunil Gavaskar's indiscreet behaviour towards Bedi, who was more experienced than he Bedi is absolutely justified in pointing out that Ravi Shastri was not needed as a replacement for Doshi As Shivlal Yadav was injured in New Zealand, the Indian team needed a right-arm spinner and not a left arm spinner like Shastri

One should retire with grace and honour, so we request Gavaskar to retire soon before it is too late and all his mischievous deeds are fully exposed to the public One wonders why Gavaskar indirectly got Bedi axed? Was it because he craved for Indian team's captaincy?

Gavaskar should bid farewell to cricket as the best opener in the world and not as a disappointing cricketer or the worst captain India has ever produced

PRABAL GUHA
Bahjan North

GAVASKAR's ego and most unsporting tactics, that axed Bedi seem to forecast Gavaskar's downfall Sir Don Bradman and Sir Gary Sobers might have called him a world class batsman, but will they wholeheartedly support Gavaskar's meanmindedness

Should a sportsman in the truest sense of the term stoop so low, and yet claim to be a world class batsman? Wadhwaney's revealing interview necessitates that Gavaskar should be debarred from representing India for the rest of his career, if we have any slightest respect for 'sportsman spirit

MONOJIT SANYAL
Howrah

WADHWANEY's interview with Bedi was biased Bedi's statements about Sunny like "who allegedly rules the Board of Cricket Control", "stab me in the back," etc, are totally unsportsmanlike, coming from a great cricketer like Bishan Sunny, being the captain of the side, obviously had no alternative but to drop Bedi due to his lack of form Bedi should not have expected that he would be retained in the side just because he named his son Gavasinder after Sunny

Some of Bishan's statements are rather ludicrous like his policy of making "a grim fight of a losing battle" The way he gifted the match to Pakistan at Karachi hardly showed his fighting quality

Bishan claims that a batsman captain would not declare his team's innings if he were on the verge of scoring a century Perhaps he has forgotten that Sunny as the captain did declare India's innings against the Windies at Calcutta with a double century well within his reach Bedi also suggests that Sunil should be "modest in victory" Did Gavaskar boast of his performance as captain when India won against Australia at Melbourne this year? Bishan claims that he was a true ambassador of India in Pakistan but I must add that he was not a true captain' I think he had his priorities wrong He was supposed to be a captain in Pakistan and not an ambassador He opted for the latter at the price of the series

RAMDAS PAI
Calcutta

It seems to me, after reading Mr Wadhwaney's interview with Bedi that he has wasted the pages of this excellent magazine to express his grudges against Sunny With all due respect to Bedi, I think that after his performances in Pakistan and in the three Tests against West Indies, when he was given the so called 'short spells' he appeared to be a shadow of the past So many people felt that it was high time to give a chance to the host of talented players like Doshi, Hans, Shastri and others So there was nothing wrong in dropping Bedi after offering him sufficient chances to

fight for a place in the Test team

What does Mr Wadhwaney mean by calling Shastri a "yes man"? Ravi has proved by his performance that he is certainly more than a yes man. He should know that it is not the proper way to encourage a budding youngster

MANISH A,
Bombay

MR WADHWANEY'S interview with Bedi makes ridiculous reading. First, Bedi said that it was Gavaskar who gave him short spells against the West Indies This is not true Sunny had initially given him longer spells, but as Bedi appeared to be unsuccessful, he was taken off. Secondly, Bedi said that he would not have been included in the team had Gavaskar been captain in the 1979 Indian tour of England.

Since this is not a fact, why does he blame Sunny? Thirdly, Bedi said that if he had belonged to the Western part of India he would not have to quit cricket so early While saying this, he should have kept in mind that players of great calibre like Kapil Dev and Chauhan are given chances irrespective of the fact that they belong to North India.

Fourthly, the interviewer thinks that if Bedi was elected captain of the touring Indian team against Australia and New Zealand this year, the team would not have performed so badly But this argument is not warranted by Bedi's record of captaincy.

In fact, Bedi had lost his previous form when he was dropped from the side According to Bedi, Sunny is all-in-all, the citadel of power in the Board of Control

However, it is high time for us to search for new faces Both Doshi and Shastri are competent enough to fill the vacancy created by Bedi What is past is past. So it is useless for Bedi to boast of his past form

ARUN GANGULEE,
Calcutta

Facts

THE premature demise of Rajeet Bhango, whom I met at Chandigarh last year, has come as a rude shock to me In that summer camp conducted by Mr D P Azad, Rajeet and Chetan Sharma outclassed the others Rajeet, like Sandeep Patil, was a natural hitter of the ball He, however, couldn't concentrate much on cricket because of his studies Now that Rajeet is no more, Mr Azad has sympathised with him

But do you know what happened to this young boy? I expected Mr Azad to disclose the facts but since he had not done that, I would like to explain what exactly happened to this young cricketer Some time in June last year Rajeet wrote to me saying that Mr Azad had asked him to tender a written apology mainly for his side's defeat though he himself had scored a brilliant half-century

What could he do alone when all others had failed? As he refused to apologise, Mr Azad made it quite clear to him that he would be debarred from practising at the stadium Rajeet kept on writing to me that I should intervene in this matter and rescue him from the mess Eventually I wrote to Mr Azad in November but he did not pay heed to my request

Meanwhile the frequency of Rajeet's letters increased In March I wrote to him regretting my inability to solve his problem I suggested to him that he should either go to Delhi or come to Bombay for his college education. A few days later he replied lamenting, "I think God doesn't want me to succeed What's the use of leading such a life? I haven't touched a bat for the last 10 months Well, Mr Azad has taught me a lesson, but I am sure God will teach him another lesson" That was his last letter What a pathetic end to a brilliant career! May the departed soul rest in peace

MAKARAND WAINGANKAR,
Bombay

Clarified

REGARDING the exclusion of Shivnath Singh from the athletic team for the Tokyo Meet in June this year, I should like to state that the Ministry of Education had informed the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, before the selection trials were to be held, that the criterion for participation in the Track and Field Athletic Meet at Tokyo would be the occupation of third position in the last Asian Meet held there in June 1980.

While, according to this principle, the qualifying standard in 5,000 metres was 13 m. 59.8 seconds, the performance of Shivnath Singh in the selection trials was 14 minutes 09.5 seconds He thus fell short of the required standard by 10 seconds. Again the criterion in the 10,000 metres was fixed at 29 m 2.06 seconds, but his performance was 29 m 33.2 seconds.

The AAFI had also informed the Ministry of Education that since Shivnath Singh fell short of the required standards by fairly large margins and is 35 years old, he was not selected for the Tokyo Meet held in June, 1981.

Incidentally, the results in the recent Tokyo Meet warranted the stand taken by the Ministry of Education against Shivnath Singh.

K. K. PURI,
Deputy Press Information Officer, Education and Social Welfare, Govt. of India.

Who is greater?

MOST pundits rank Vijay Amritraj above young Ramesh Krishnan I agree with them, provided age is not taken into account, but I think Ramesh is the better of the two if age is taken into consideration, since he has had the unique distinction of winning, among others, the junior US the junior Wimbledon and the junior French championships

APURBA DATTA and SANJAY NAG,
Ranchi

Disheartening

IT is quite shocking to learn that the wonder-boy of Indian chess, Dibyendu Barua had gone to Argentina to participate in the under-16 World Cadet Chess championship with only meagre financial support from the Government of West Bengal. At the same time, one cannot find any justifiable reason, why, by any stretch of imagination, the West Bengal Ministers went to enjoy the Moscow Olympics by spending more than rupees three lakhs. Was that mission to Moscow at all necessary?

SHARMILA GUHA,
Balijan.

Yoga also

DR UDAYAN Sen has recommended gymnastics and weight training for our footballers in the July 22 issue of *Sportsworld*. I think Yoga is equally, if not more, beneficial to those who desire to attain flexibility of the body and develop muscle power.

Yoga is a complete system of exercise. Apart from regular benefits that can be had from any type of physical exercise, Yoga produces a highly useful effect on the mind, thereby improving one's concentration and bringing about a remarkable change in one's attitude toward life. of mind. Above all, it requires no equipment and for a country like ours, where sportsmen are generally poor, this should be of immense importance

ANINDO MAJUMDAR,
New Delhi.

Self-contradictory

ARUP ROY's letter in the July 15 issue is really amazing Discussing Sunil Gavaskar, he writes in the first part of his letter that Sunny is still to come into the category of Viv Richards or Greg Chappell but concludes that Gavaskar has established himself as an all-time great batsman. If Gavaskar is an all-time great batsman, how is it that he does not fall into the category of Richards or Chappell?

Moreover, why is there no reference to Geoff Boycott? Actually, Gavaskar is yet to come anywhere near Barry Richards, Viv Richards, Greg Chappell or Geoff Boycott. Consider Gavaskar's performance in the English County matches where there are world-class bowlers Probably he was troubled by the weather.

SHAIBAL GUHA,
Assam.

Still greatest

MR JAIMIN M. BHATT has refuted Mr Sethuraman's statement that Bjorn Borg is the greatest player of all time I fully agree with what Mr Sethuraman has said about Borg

There are various reasons why I consider Borg to be the greatest tennis player of all time. First, Borg has won the Wimbledon title for five successive years with 41 consecutive victories, the French Open Championship six times, the Italian Open championship twice and the Masters Grand Prix tennis tournament for two consecutive years. The winning of so many tournaments in such a shot span of time requires a tremendous capacity to withstand mounting pressure which Rod Laver did not have According to Bhatt, Laver would have picked up more titles from 1963 to 1967, had he played during that time But I do not think Laver could have withstood the pressure, as was evident in 1970 when he came back to retain his Wimbledon title for the third year Laver has not won Wimbledon five times in a row, but despite this people say that Laver is better than Borg

Jack Kramer and Don Budge constantly stated that Borg could be easily beaten on both clay and grass courts by players like Laver, Budge and Kramer themselves They stated that Borg was not specialised in any department of the game, while Laver was better than Borg in all departments What Kramer forgot was that Borg has greater consistency than any other player in the world

He has that zeal, courage, confidence and determination which is more valuable than Laver's forehand and backhand. The fact that Borg has lost only three 5-setter matches since 1978 goes to prove his consistency Further, Don Budge stated that Borg is not the greatest of all times because he has not yet won the Grand Slam This is an absurd method of determining a player's greatness Though Borg has not yet won the Grand Slam, he has proved his greatness in many other respects.

There may be others who state that Borg is not the greatest just because he lost to John McEnroe in this year's Wimbledon finals In spite of McEnroe's victory this year, Borg is and will be for a long time the greatest tennis player of all time Firstly, McEnroe is a poor player on clay courts. Secondly, he is less consistent than Borg. Borg will again prove his greatness. So, whatever people like Jaimin M Bhatt may write, Borg is the greatest tennis player of all time

N GIRIDHAR RAO,
Madras

Why this attitude?

I READ with an absorbing interest Alan Gibson's article on Mike Procter, the Gloucestershire captain

Procter, as chosen by Gibson, is competent to succeed Brearley as England's captain, but there is a major snag in this choice The Indian Government, it is widely known, has confirmed its support of the U N blacklist. This means that sportsmen who have played in South Africa will be debarred from playing in India Needless to say, Procter's name is included in that list Furthermore, the name of Geoff Boycott is also there

Should the Indian Government continue to adhere to its attitude, the tour will most likely be endangered If this happens, it will be a most unfortunate incident I believe firmly that a line should be drawn somewhere to prevent politics from entering into sports

It is high time for our Government to change its attitude towards the U N blacklist.

HABUL BHATTACHARYA,
Calcutta

Open letter

WHILE sympathising with you on the two consecutive defeats suffered by Australia at the hands of England in the third and fourth Tests, I just cannot get over a strange feeling of sadistic pleasure from the agonising defeats suffered by the Australians

If my memory does not betray me, it was you who had said that the Indian cricketers should have played against Sri Lanka and Canada before playing against Australia But, within a span of just six months or so, you are being made to eat your own words. What an irony of fate!

How is it that you are keeping quiet now? You should say something at least in the form of advice to the cricketers of your country How about asking your cricketers to play against Kenya, Argentina or Mexico? I am sure Sri Lanka will be tough for a team that loses a Test after having imposed a follow-on on its rival

Finally, mind your own business Chappell, from now onwards, without making any comments on which teams India should play against, especially when your advice is not warranted

ASHOK DUTTA,
Shillong

Be united

ALTHOUGH East Bengal Club started the Calcutta League on a promising note, they lost the vital matches The outstation players are mainly held responsible for this debacle but it is the internal differences among club officials that have contributed more than anything else to this mishap There are instances in the past as well as in the present where several outstation players have greatly impressed the Calcutta spectators So, one should not blame the outstation players

I have only one question to ask coach Santo Mitra Why did he play Khabazi in both the vital matches against Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting, when he did not have faith in him in less important matches? Khabazi was sidelined in the matches preceding both the big matches

A player having so little match practice is bound to put up a poor show in vital matches Mr Mitra should have resigned before if he was pressurised by the club officials Every club has ups and downs East Bengal Club, it is obvious, is now going through a lean patch, but they can still salvage some prestige in the remaining tournaments if the officials, coach and players combine with each other Their motto at this critical juncture should be "united we stand, divided we fall"

ASHISH GHOSH,
Calcutta

Injustice!

THE retirement of Bishan Singh Bedi was indeed a rude shock It is really the tragic end of a great player who served Indian cricket so brilliantly for well over a decade He was driven out from Test cricket at a time when he was as good as any other player. One might say that he was a bit tired after representing India in 64 Tests. But, then, if he were tired he should have been asked to rest for a few matches

DAMODAR DAS DUJARI, SHEO KUMAR TAPADIA, LACHMAN DAS RAJALANI, S K SINHA, S K DEY, Jharia

Credit to others

I HAVE gone through Sharmistha Mazumdar's letter published in the July 29 issue I think that credit should be first given to Vijay Amritraj for his correct assessment, then to both Ashok Kamath and David McMahon for their excellent reporting, and, at last to the editor for publishing it So *Sportsworld* alone cannot deserve full credit

SUBHASIS MAJUMDER,
Calcutta

Congrats

CONGRATULATIONS to you and your staff for bringing out such an excellent sports journal every week Frankly speaking, I have gone through many a sports magazine published in our country but *Sportsworld* is simply unparalleled It appears every week as if it were a plate of real delicacy But, please, don't deprive us of enjoying the County cricket department A lot of thanks for the splendid blow-ups of our sports idols

ARUN MUKHERJEE,
Hooghly

Demand!

FINALLY, you have given in I am referring to your editorial of the June 10 issue Your previous editorial appeared in February 25 issue So, after a passage of 14 issues, you have obliged your readers with another excellently written editorial Moreover, one of the primary reasons why we buy *Sportsworld* is to go through your editorial columns But, if you turn your back on us, it will be greatly disappointing That is why we request you to make the editorial a regular feature Any magazine is incomplete without an editorial I hope you will accede to our "demand"

P S. MONY,
Trivandrum.

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

YOU CAN BET YOUR ASS—
California If you breed a donkey with a mare you get a mule In the town of Bishop, there are as many mules as men It s also the only place in the world where you can wager a bet on a mule race The animals don t know how to run—they have to be taught and they never run straight The race has the slogan "You can bet your ass in Bishop"! There are mule parades mule shoe-ing contests and a braying competition—strictly for the four-legged!

MS. CLUTTER CHUCK
Gloucestershire· Janine Clutterbuck isn t married but she sure knows how to use a rolling pin The 19-year old school teacher set a new national record when she hurled it more than 141 ft Prospective grooms took serious note of her achievement

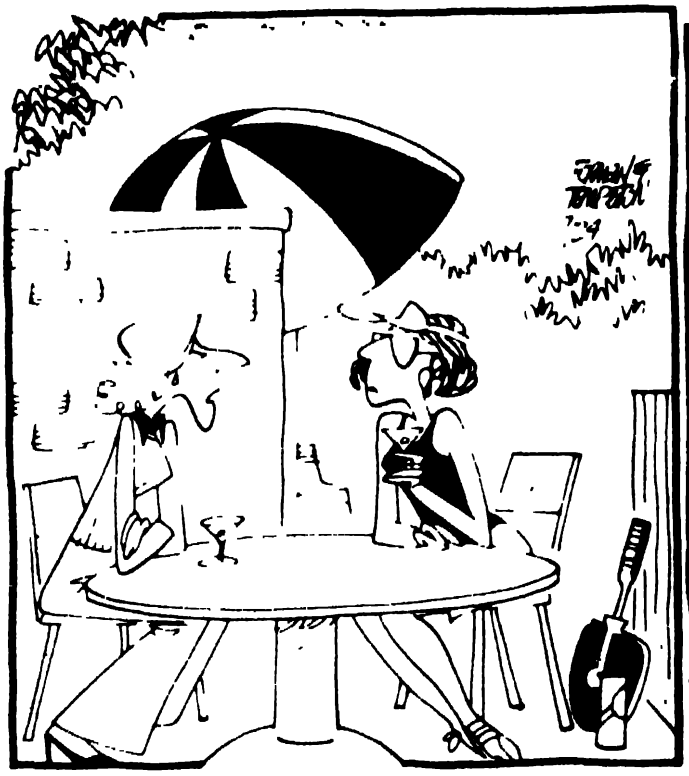
PIPE DREAM
Los Angeles· Like most things today, the traditional bag pipes of Scotland are not what they used to be They aren t made of goat skin anymore—they aren t even made in Scotland anymore When the Scots of Los Angeles held their annual high-land games they used pipes made of some dubious material imported from—of all places—Pakistan!

WHAT'S COOKING?
Trieste· Five weary swimmers were fished out of the Adriatic Sea a mile off Trieste Part of the crew of the Cypriot freighter 'Lara', they had jumped over-board and swam shore-wards because the food on board ship was "terrible" Minutes later, a sixth crewman was spotted It was the cook, Sylvester Jajkovi, who explained that the supplies were awful and he could do nothing with them, so he decided to come ashore, too!

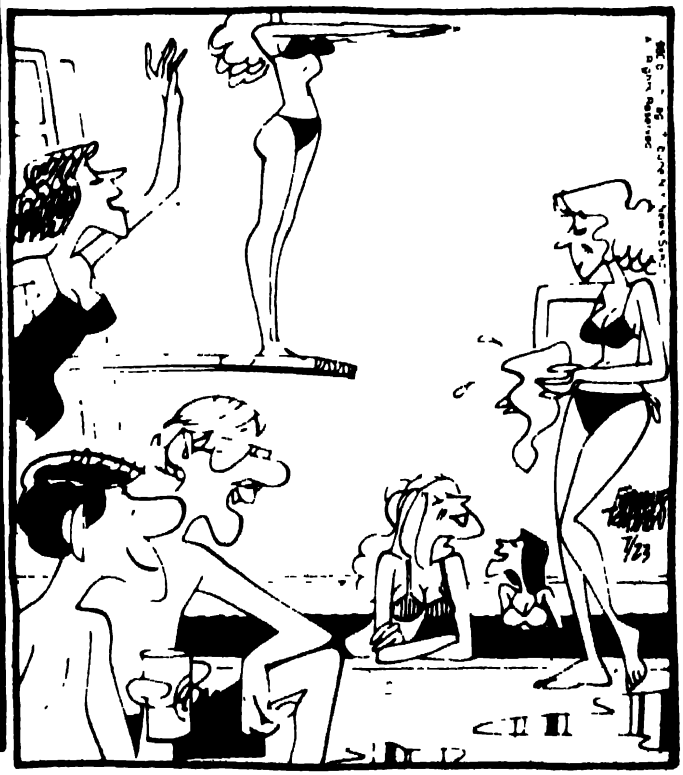
BERNIE TELLIS



"HELLO, HOLIDAY INN...?"



"I SPENT FIVE YEARS SHOWING HIM HOW TO BE A BETTER HUSBAND, THEN HE LEAVES ME FOR ANOTHER WOMAN... I'M BEGINNING TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE BASEBALL OWNERS!"



"I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE MOST POPULAR SPORT IN THE COUNTRY IS SWIMMING."

Editor's page



EUPHORIA in the streets and miracles on the cricket grounds. This is what the wedding and the matches at Headingley and Edgbaston had to offer. For a few days, Britain's ever-growing problems were relegated to the background by some well-organised pomp and pageantry, and her cricketing shortcomings almost clouded over by two unbelievable victories.

For once even the bookies were caught short when on the final day odds of 200 to 1 on England were grabbed by some outright punters as well as some cunning cricketers who were fully aware that anything could happen to this Australian batting lineup.

Unfortunately, neither the euphoria nor the ecstasy is likely to last long and the English selectors are well aware of the latter fact. The middle order is as unstable as TNT but nowhere as explosive, and there is a captain who may be an astute man, but it is under abnormal circumstances and as a temporary measure that he wears his country's colours. Yet England keeps winning and till there is a reversal of fortune, or an injury, many key positions will have to be retained.

More unfortunately, obvious replacements are not clearly visible. The County cricket cupboard is not exactly overflowing with talent. Not so long ago one would go miles to see the likes of Dexter, Cowdrey, May and others.

Today, one would do the same if Richards or Zaheer Abbas were somewhere in the vicinity, but it would take some persuasion to watch Boycott's impeccable defence or Gower's inexplicable misdemeanours.

The lustre or consistencies so characteristic of the English batsmen is no longer there, and to some extent it is due to the influence of limited-overs cricket as well as the influx of foreign players whose brand of cricket is much in demand, and who occupy most of the limelight.

Another reason could be that since the advent of sponsorship, money has been reintroduced into the game, and with the present incentives, senior players prefer to hang on, rather than look elsewhere for lucrative jobs (not that there is much hope in a country beset by inflation and unemployment). This often prevents the younger aspirants from achieving prominence till it is too late.



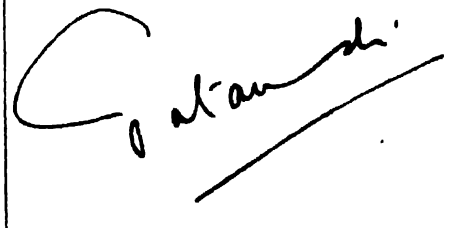
There is another less conspicuous aspect. The only two universities which played first class cricket and which attached comparative importance to sporting ability have changed their attitude. Nowadays it is only academic skill that gets one into Oxford or Cambridge, and it is a generally accepted fact that cricketers are not distinction material.

There are, of course, exceptions to this. Hubert Doggart, the next president of the M.C.C. not only got a number of "blues", and played a couple of Test matches, but also has an enviable academic record. Brearley is another from the same university, but the output has virtually dried-up, and one of the traditional breeding grounds has been lost, perhaps forever.

It was John Arlott, I think, who said words to the effect that the social and economic health of a country, is reflected in the well-being and prosperity that the game enjoys. If indeed this is so, then the future of cricket is hardly bright. In most countries where it is played seriously, there are acute problems, whether it be racial discrimination, repression of basic rights, over-population, strikes and lockouts

Except, of course, for the West Indies, where in spite of increasing tension, people seem to have coped so far, more than adequately, with the business of producing an endless stream of talent. Presumably it is due not only to the fanatical following, but also to a Caribbean outlook on life developed no doubt by the even presence of the sun, the sea and the inevitable rum and Coca Cola.

One can only hope that these lovely islands are left to themselves, but once again, one suspects that "interested" forces are ever ready to influence and confuse a people whose guile in no way matches their talent.



My most memorable moments

LEELA RAM



SUBEDAR Major Leela Ram, now 52, was one of the two Indians to win a gold medal at the 1958 Commonwealth Meet, the other one being the 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh. Major Ram had been the national wrestling champion for seven consecutive years from 1955 to 1961 until he retired a victim of politics in sports. He was recommended for the Padma Sree and Arjuna Award, in 1973 and 1980 respectively, but did not get them due to some unknown reasons. His worth was recognised last year when he was appointed Assistant Director in the Haryana Sports Department after the ouster of Chandgi Ram. Leela Ram, who hailed from Mandhola village in Charkhi Dedri of Bhiwani district, retired from the army after 17 years of service in 1979.

TRIUMPH over Rustam-e-Iran Mohammadi on the first day of 1956 in Delhi's National Stadium and winning a Gold Medal at the 1958 Cardiff Commonwealth Meet, the first by any Indian in the meet, marked the most memorable moments in my heavyweight wrestling career, though captaining the national wrestling squad at the Melbourne Olympics was no less an honour. At Cardiff I had defeated an Australian in the final. My adversary was then number two in the world.

Yet another proud moment came in 1967 when I was appointed the chief coach of the Indian squad to take part in the World Wrestling Championships in Delhi. I saw my *'shagird'* (pupil) Bishamber Singh win the first-ever medal, a silver, for India in the World Championships. Earlier, another *'shagird'* Udey Chand had won a bronze in 1961 in the Japan Wrestling Championship.

However, there were also sad moments in my career. One such was when I was not selected for the Asian Games held at Manila. In one trial bout Bhalaram, Kaur, Major Singh, the late Air Force, Sajjan of the Army, Bishwanath, also of the Army and four others to prove to everyone around that I was no rival in my class. But I was still not included in the national squad, the reason being that Dewan Chand had come in victory at an important meeting in the organisation and he would never let me in. I felt dejected and disillusioned. And that, incidentally, was my last year in the national championship.

My talent, in fact, was never recognised thereafter until 1967 when I was appointed chief coach of the Indian squad for the World Wrestling Championships in Delhi. Last year the Haryana Governor desired to meet the person who had beaten Murti Mane. It was he who asked what I was doing these days. I told him that besides a bit of social service and working on some *'shagirds'*, I had to spend my spare time playing cards in my village in Bhiwani district of Haryana. He was shocked and promised me a job in the sports department. That is how I am here.

I had been humiliated to the extent that instead of utilising my services to the field I belong, in 1973, they made me a NCC instructor for girls.

The fact is that with politicians at the helm, wrestlers have no chance to come up. They are being ignored all along. Wrestling, it seems, is now meant only for youngsters. The sport is as good as finished. Things will not improve until those who are knowledgeable are allowed to take charge.

As told to SATISH KUMAR

The hoax of amateurism



The start of the Packer speculation—Gavaskar talking with Asif Iqbal and Lynton Taylor

The question of amateurism has acquired greater relevance in the light of the recent Income Tax proceedings initiated against certain soccer players in Calcutta. Are sportsmen justified in taking money? Are commercial organisations doing the right thing by giving sportsmen special facilities? Are arrangements like these detrimental to the very code of amateurism? The answers to these and other equally important questions are provided by RON HENDRICKS from Bombay, ASHOK KAMATH from Madras, A CORRESPONDENT from Delhi and RAJU MUKHERJI and SARAJIT DEB from Calcutta.

REVOLUTION is an ugly word. But it is precisely the one that will be needed to force radical changes and insulate the Olympic movement from the danger of disintegration Lord Killanin was honest enough to admit "the politicians have taken over". The Moscow boycott provided a sad finale to his eight-year term in a tough diplomatic assignment.

His predecessor, the late Avery Brundage, pursued two cherished goals with single-minded devotion He strove relentlessly to keep the Games free of "politics and the dollar sign"

The pragmatism of Lord Killanin, a liberal Irish peer, could not oust the idealism of Brundage which encouraged mass perjury by the competitors at the Games. Rule 26, which concerns the eligibility of athletes, may be altered and amended in the light of experience. But it will never be removed from the statute book and the Games will not go open.

Lord Killanin said: "My personal view is that the Olympic rules should be such that athletes are not made to sign lies because of political pressures from their national Olympic committees or their governments. We must come up with a rule that people can obey. I am not in favour of Open Games if that means professionalism But nor do I believe that rules can't be changed One has to be realistic"

The allegation that the magnificent Edwin Moses, apparently invincible over the 400 metres hurdles, received $5,000 from the promoters of an athletics meet in Italy last summer for lowering his own world record left sensation-seekers looking for a pay-off scandal cloudburst They were doomed to disappointment. Powerful Milan Athletics Club promptly came to the defence of the American athlete The allegation was officially denied.

It is not easy to establish the receipt of illegal payments by athletes But there can be little doubt that under-the-counter payments for top liners are in fashion The main draw-cards expect appearance money Fiddling with expenses is not the only means of making money on the side

The authoritative American magazine, *Track And Field News*, carried out an in-depth survey of the scene under the title, "Take the Money and Run" For the feature, it sent a strictly confidential questionnaire to a broad sampling of athletes, coaches, reporters, promoters and officials in the United States The replies left no doubt that top-class performers were in the habit of receiving illegal payments

One promoter admitted: "I know of very few indoor meets that don't look after the key athletes Those receiving payments are pretty well confined to the top ten or twelve athletes in a meet, the athletes who will provide the drawing power. There is simply not enough money in the track to go deeper in taking care of the athletes"

Not surprisingly, no European athletes replied to the magazine's questionnaire. But US athletes, familiar with the old world, were quick to fill in some details. At least one was filled with a sense of injustice after a

***Amateur:** (noun) "One who cultivates a particular study or art for the love of it, and not professionally, often with the suggestion that he is superficial, trifling, dilettantish, or inexpert: one who engages in sport purely for pleasure, as opposite to professional"*

***Professional:** (adjective): "Pertaining to a profession: engaged in a profession or in the profession in question: competing for money prizes or against those who sometimes do so: undertaken as a means of subsistence, as opposed to amateur."*

Scandinavian meeting when, he recounted "An obscure 14 sec high hurdler said 'let's go get our money and have a party' He could not believe it when we told him we got nothing He had finished fifth or sixth and he was getting $100 plus expenses and travel even though he was just a filler in the field"

It has been going on for a long time though "A great many athletes who pass off as amateurs" wrote Montague Sherman in 1894, "are not only professionals in truth and fact, who make a living out of the sport, but, what is worse, many of them are making a living out of it by dishonest means" Sherman had to admit, however, that "one crack' will do more to make a success of a meet than fifty crocks

IN 1912 Jim Thorpe had his Olympic gold medal for decathlon taken away because it was discovered he had received $60 a month for playing semi pro baseball in previous summer vacations In 1932, Jules Lasounegue, French holder of the world mile record, was disqualified after accusations that he had received 25,000 French francs for running in Scandinavia Lasounegue missed the chance of attending his final appeal because of a car accident

The same year, Paavo Nurmi, Finland's greatest athlete was barred from competing in the Los Angeles Olympics after a story by a Swedish paper claimed that the "Flying Finn' regularly received payments for running The German federation strengthened the case by reporting that Nurmi had taken $300 for racing in Danzig and another $400 for competing in Poland

From the United States, where Nurmi had competed indoors, came only silence Nurmi was to state later in life "I earned my money through my brains, not my legs"

The next big scandal was in 1945 when Sweden's Gunder Haegg and Arne Anderson, both world record breakers for 1,500m and the mile were disqualified by the Swedish federation after they had examined the accounts books of organising clubs The stimulus to the investigation had come from the Swedish newspaper, *Expressen*, which claimed that an unofficial tariff existed, establishing what sums Haegg and Anderson should be paid depending on whether or not they provided a new world record

Gordon Pirie escaped punishment by turning professional Wes Santee was hounded out of amateur sport by the American Athletics Association for rigging his expense accounts He may have beaten Dr Roger Bannister to the epoch-making sub-four-minute mile His battle for reinstatement in law courts was unsuccessful

MILKHA SINGH once confided that he had received payments for running in Europe He was a topliner, an outstanding quarter miler Only one Indian athlete has been deprived of amateur status That was a woman sprinter from West Bengal She modelled for track shoe advertisements and paid the penalty in 1964

But the entire Caltex football team was spared a similar fate after winning the Rovers Cup The threat to their amateur status was highlighted the moment the first advertisement was run with their skipper, Latif, praising the virtues of pop-corn

Speedy action was taken The publicity campaign was stopped The advertising agency played ball Of course, the modelling fee of Rs 250 which each player was paid was returned The affair was hushed up

The national Olympic committee and the sports federations leave the amateur a wide margin in this country Wrestlers get away with murder Master Chandgi Ram even acted in a movie But he was allowed to compete in both the Asian Games, where he won a gold medal, and the Munich Olympics where he disgraced himself by "running" Our wrestlers pick up something a lot more substantial than mud from the *akharas*!

The amateur rules have been relaxed to allow sponsorship to cover the expenses of an athlete who would like to study abroad A diet allowance is also permissible and Karnataka agreed to pay Rs 1,000 a month towards the diet allowance of a wrestler from North India!

Malaysian sportswriters were amused when our World Cup heroes were given nothing more than garlands by a Sikh organisation that feted them Ashok Kumar who scored the winning goal against Pakistan in a real hockey classic was garlanded twice

'What a joke, said a Malaysian sportscribe But the joke was on him Nearly woven into the floral tributes were bundles of Malaysian dollars And then our hockey heroes struck it rich through the safety valve of funds being raised for their families

TABLE tennis went open many years before lawn tennis But the TTFI turned its back on professionals Ranbhir Bhandari, now an NIS coach landed in a whole heap of trouble because he went on a tour of Australia with the professional team of Bergmann and Co They needed an Indian player for "colour" and it was a pity that the Indian administrators did not abide by the world body's radical ruling

Monty Merchant, now a lawn tennis coach in the United States, was betrayed by the TTFI He was given permission to compete in a prize-money competition in Tokyo He did extremely well there He had some notable victories, including one over Surbek He was suspended by the TTFI and was unable to represent Maharashtra on his return Today, the TTFI does countenance prize-money competitions

There is no dividing line between amateur and professional in table tennis But the Asiad comes under the Olympic umbrella Only amateurs are permitted to participate How does this affect the status of players who have competed in prize-money competitions? Apparently, this is no bar That's the impression one gets from the list of players who have been called to the coaching camp and are in line for selection to the national representative side

Lawn tennis players made a mockery of the amateur rules before the game went open But the big money lay in turning professional Ramanathan Krishnan was the only Indian who was invited to do so He refused tempting offers to turn pro He played as an amateur and he took India into the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup in the twilight of his illustrious career

Amateur players rigged their expenses They made a pretty penny out of air fares Some of the more avaricious and unscrupulous held promoters to ransom by feigning illness on the morning of a final The right amount of money was an instant cure They were soon fit enough to go on court

The stands in Madras were once burned The promoters had this gimmick in mind when the young Ramanathan Krishnan's father phoned to tell them that he would not able to play in the final Krishnan was told to report on time "No nonsense will be tolerated"

Krishnan did not arrive at the court The promoters rushed to visit him and find out what was wrong "I have a sore back," they were told "I can't play" They offered him a couple of thousand rupees "If you give me five lakhs," said Krish, "I can't oblige you My injury will not allow me to play" Disappointed fans set fire to the stands

Govind Vasant, a prominent coach and the father of Nirupama Mankad once hit on a novel idea He organised a boycott of a tournament in Bombay by the local players if they were not paid the expenses and travel money offered to visiting players from other parts of the country And he got his pound of flesh, too! A fine example of player-power

OPEN tennis has eliminated the need for underhand dealings, but Ramesh Krishnan is still playing as an amateur He is keen on representing India in the 1982 Asiad where he should be a firm favourite to win the gold medal But did Chiradeep Mukherjea regain his amateur status by keeping out of the Calcutta Grand Prix which Noah won? It would seem so He played for India in the Bangkok Asiad!

Competitive sport is not a pleasant diversion for the idle rich It has a much broader base Cricket in England cherished a peculiar form of apartheid Gentlemen (amateurs) and players (professionals) did not enter the ground through the same gate But that distinction is a thing of the past Cricket has never really bothered about amateurs and professionals They are allowed to play together

The Indian players of today do not really miss princely patronage They have been absorbed into the commer

cial world purely because of their ability to play cricket. One commercial house even issued the players appointment letters "as cricketers" The star Indian players have the best of both worlds They get unlimited leave to represent their State and country and to play in England as professionals.

The same concession was not extended to Gulab Rai Ramchand by his former employers. He is now going great guns with Air-India Ramchand led India to a historic victory over Richie Benaud's mighty Australians in the Kanpur Test. He was fired by his company on the eve of the next Test at Bombay's Brabourne Stadium They refused to give him leave to play for his country!

The Board introduced professionalism in India for a decade or two. Polly Umrigar, Vinoo Mankad, Vijay Manjrekar and Salim Durrani played as professionals in the Ranji Trophy The Board put an end to professionalism, which allowed a player to represent any State in the country in the Ranji Trophy, in the Sixties Manjrekar was the last of the cricketers to play as a professional in India

Proficiency in cricket opens many doors to the Indian player He is in the lap of luxury. He is assured gainful employment irrespective of his qualifications in more vital areas That may be the reason why Ghulam Ahmed, in his capacity as Board secretary, said "We will bring pressure on the players through their employers if any of them try to defect to Packer "

Only two sports in India encourage shamateurism—wrestling and soccer FIFA put an end to the regular appearance of Pakistani stars, like Moosa and Oomer, in the Calcutta League The others allow the "firmateur" and the "shamateur" full play But our athletes are not good enough to pick up cash on the side by parading the equipment of sports good manufacturers Their turn will come when we produce another Milkha Singh!

THE Olympic ideal of sport for sport's sake has vanished long, long ago What remains is a nebulous concept which everyone pretends exists but in reality does not The only real amateurs in sport left today are those superannuated fitness freaks jogging along the beach in an often belated attempt to stay healthy The middle aged business executive, used to high eating and high living, shaken out of his sedantary existence by his doctor, taking to a religious morning jog in a bid to pull back that obscene paunch to respectable proportions, the upper middleclass housewife going through sauna baths and back-bending exercises in a swank health club in the city—these are the leftover species of the amateur tribe

At the other end of the spectrum are the 'also rans' in school level competitions, who later grow up to take part in an occasional neighbourhood sporting indulgence "for old time's sake."



Milkha Singh talking with Mrs Indira Gandhi How long will it take to produce another athlete like him?

In the Indian context, nearly all high-level competitive sport is amateur only in name No sportsman is said to be employed as say, a cricketer of the State Bank of India but it is hard to imagine that, say a Vishwanath was employed by his employers for his academic and other qualifications rather than his cricketing abilities

The examples are legion and it is a simple fact of life that all those employed under the euphemism of "sports quota" are in reality professionals in that it was their proficiency in their particular sporting discipline that has won them their bread, butter, and sometimes, jam. This is the primary form of "professionalism", although it is not formally recognised as such No doubt, all our sportsmen employed for their excellence in sport also go through the regular grind of attending office chores unconnected with sports but more often than not it is only a facade that has to be maintained to keep up their "amateur" status

Employment of sportsmen and sportswomen on the basis of their performance on the field is about the best thing that could have happened to Indian sports Government institutions like the Railways and the Services, quasi-government institutions, the Airlines, the banks and private employers like Tatas, Mahindras etc., have to a great extent stepped into the shoes of the maharajas of pre-Independence India who used to patronise sports and sportsmen Enlisting personnel via the 'sports quota' is probably not only inevitable in the world today but also the least offensive form of "shamateurism" And no sport can escape this

But side by side with the crumbling of the bastions of amateurism and the coming to the recognised "pro" in sports circuits, a group of totally humbug amateurs sprang out and the best examples of this tribe are our footballers doing the rounds in the Calcutta League They are by far the most professional of 'amateur' sportsmen in this country

CRICKET circles in Madras are still gasping after learning of the reportedly high salary the dashing young Tamil Nadu Ranji opener K Srikkanth has been recently hired on Srikkanth, who was very successful last season, was offered quite a few jobs by institutions competing in the local league

As a student last year, he played for the Young Men's Association (YMA) This is a team sponsored by the Southern Petro-Chemical Industries Corporation Last May he completed his engineering studies and even before his results came out, he has been grabbed by the TVS group, reportedly, on a salary of Rs 2,400 plus a car for his use if true, these are about the best terms a young sportsman has got in recent times And a few people in their right senses can grudge Srikkanth commanding, and getting, the price he did

The citing of Srikkanth's case is only to reinforce the earlier point on this form of quasi-professionalism in Indian sport today (Srikkanth, incidentally, turns out for Alwarpet Cricket Club sponsored by TVS—in the TNCA senior division league) At the rate private business houses are going about coughing up fabulous sums of money to employ some of our top sportsmen, government and quasi-government institutions may find it difficult to recruit top-drawer sportsmen very soon

Then we come to yet another brand of pseudo-amateurs like some of our wrestlers While technically most of our matmen qualify as amateurs and therefore are allowed to participate in the Olympic, Asian and like Games, it is common knowledge that most of them get fabulous amounts by way of prize money. This is apart from under the-table "guarantee money" that

some of our topnotchers get to participate in Indian-style wrestling meets held by private sponsors

Quite recently the coaching camp for our wrestlers which was to be held at the NIS in Patiala turned out to be a non-starter because only three of the thirty-odd selected turned up for the camp The reason for this was very simple Concurrently with the camp was the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Wrestling Championship in Delhi and the wrestlers preferred to take part in the Indian-style *akhara* rather than sweat it out in the coaching camp in preparation for the Asian Games And naturally so, when the prize money for the winners was something in the region of Rs 80 000 for the top category and proportionately lower down the scale If our wrestlers are not professionals, who are?

It is in contexts like these that one wonders why the world still clings to an obsolete ideal like amateurism Competitive sport has given birth to professionalism and no sane person is going to sacrifice an opportunity to make money, to the best of his ability, when the going is good Amateurism is all right in non-competitive sport but the man or woman who gives the best part of his or her life in pursuit of competitive sport must necessarily try and take in as much money as his or her sporting proficiency is capable of

HOCKEY is one of the few sporting disciplines in the world surviving under an illusion of total amateurism But the fact remains that "professionalism" in some form or the other exists Most of the top European clubs pay fantastic sums to recruit players and a scaled down version of this exists in the Bengal Hockey League where top clubs vie with each other to "purchase" outstation players

Competition for the hockey title in the Bengal Hockey Association League is so severe that the clubs follow the simple ruse as in their football campaigns, of "importing" players from other States Adhering to the laws of demand and supply, the higher the player's rating, the higher his pay packet That is why there is this shady business of inter-State transfers which crop up time and again The rules governing inter State transfers stipulate that the player seeking transfer should be a resident, at least six months earlier, in the jurisdiction of the State he is seeking to be transferred

Many players who want to participate in the Bengal Hockey League, do not want to give up their jobs with the institutions they are already working in and therefore take their certificates of residence and employment to meet the requirements, or they do the next best thing and try and get transferred on temporary duty (till the hockey season lasts) to their Calcutta office, thereby enjoying the best of both worlds

The problem was so acute a couple of seasons ago that the Indian Hockey Federation under M.A.M Ramaswamy banned three players on grounds of illegal transfers and were slapped with a court case by the players in question. What was more interesting, one of the "poorer" affiliates of the BHA filed a case against the BHA for aiding and abetting some of the illegal transfers effected by the bigger clubs

The other kind of hockey professionals are players like Olympians Cedric Pereira and M P Ganesh, to name two, who got themselves plumb coaching-cum-playing assignments with clubs in Europe but who are still qualified to play in the Olympics and the Asian Games because they are technically amateurs

VOLLEYBALL and volleyballers belong to that majority category of unpampered sports and sportsmen in India Naturally, when a good "offer" comes along, anyone would be eager to grab it The Gulf has not only lured some of our skilled, semi-skilled and manual work force Some of our volleyballers too have been bitten by the Gulf bug

It all began around December 1978 when two Arab officials landed in Delhi with the explicit purpose of hiring an Indian volleyballer whom they had seen on the T V coverage of the Bangkok Asian Games They did not know the name of the volleyballer in question but they could remember his vest number—four It turned out that number four was Keralite ace spiker, Jimmy George Someone in Delhi directed our Arab friends to Trivandrum where efforts were made to get in touch with Jimmy George, serving as a circle inspector in the Kerala Police

Mani C Kappen, former captain of Calicut University and an Indian Universities star, was the first to be contacted by the duo from the United Arab Emirates and through him the first batch of three Indian volleyballers was hired by them during the last week of December 1978 Jimmy George who could not get leave immediately, joined them a year later The men currently playing for clubs in the U A E are Jimmy George, P T Thomas (rated very highly as a junior), Mani Kappen, Railways' Manuel, Kerala's Blesson George and Suresh Mishra

While Jimmy and Thomas represent the Abu Dhabi Sports Club in the U A E League, Mani Kappen and Manuel play for the Al-Nasei Yimrts Club. All three clubs are among the top ones in the U A E With an annual sports budget of (hold your breath!) fifteen million dirhams (around rupees 3 2 crores) the U A E League is run along the lines of the County cricket championship in England All clubs are allowed to import players from any part of the world and until a couple of years ago, the number of foreign players each club was allowed to have on its rolls was three Now the number is restricted to two per club

Incidentally, all the imported players are, on paper, employees of some Government department or the other and are, ostensibly, not paid by the clubs they play for Thus, they retain their 'amateur' status.

INDIAN athletics is still far from the stage where organisers can afford to make under-the-table payments to the top stars You need money to do that, money that largely comes from the paying spectators And everybody knows that track meets are not the same thing as football matches where tickets are even sold in the 'black market' Yet our athletes are not as amateur as they should be in the proper sense of the term It could be claimed on their behalf that they are more amateur than their European or American counterparts who are not only financed by sportswear firms but are also said to receive other underhand payments, though this sort of thing is not easy to prove 'Amateurism' is all a question of degree Some are more or less 'amateur' than others But very few are honestly amateur

To start with, let us examine the aspect of jobs for athletes About 20 years ago, the late Pratap Singh Kairon, the dynamic Chief Minister of Punjab, started a new trend when he appointed the 'Flying Sikh', Milkha Singh, deputy director of sports in the State Government in recognition of his feats as a 200 and 400 metres runner. Many an eyebrow was raised then Was Milkha, who had risen from an army sepoy to jamadar at that time, qualified for the job? But a way had to be found to reward him and show the rest of the country that Punjab was always one step ahead

To hell with the amateur code and all such nonsense It was claimed that such a step would only inspire other Punjab athletes But the fact is that it was Milkha, the runner, who inspired other athletes, not Milkha, the deputy director

Not to be outdone, Uttar Pradesh also put decathlon champion Vijay Singh Chauhan in a chair behind a desk in some stuffy office in Lucknow How many athletes has Chauhan inspired to higher feats since he turned a bureaucrat? That was UP's way of rewarding one of its sons for his gold medals as an amateur athlete

The scholarships offered by colleges and universities to so-called students for athletic achievement are again a violation of the code It is common knowledge that in some northern States, colleges have enrolled boys on the understanding that they will represent the institution for four or five years at the end of which they would somehow get a degree Their degrees are a disgrace to education These degree-holders are hardly able to converse beyond a sentence or two From their fees to their food, everything is 'free' Can they be called amateurs as the term should be understood?

There was a time when the Arjuna Award was nothing but a cherished symbol But now it also carries with it a monetary benefit of Rs 250 a month.

It is called a scholarship so that the amateur status of the receiving athlete is not jeopardised

When Gopal Saini returned from the Asian Track meet at Tokyo in June, he was awarded Rs 5,000 by the Rajasthan Government for having won a gold medal and a silver medal It might be called a diet allowance! The cheque may be written in the athlete's father's, or wife's name, but the money is meant for the athlete. Hardly an amateur practice.

Saini's long distance running reminds one of the great Paavo Nurmi. It is said of the 'Flying Finn' that even he ran into money in the holy age of amateurs Athletes, when they reach a state of high excellence, have a way of mocking at the hoax called amateurism It has very little to do with reality

Like income-tax laws, everybody breaks the amateur code In most cases it is due to economic compulsion In the case of the top men and women they expect their sweat and toil on the track not only to bring medals but also hard cash. Both are their personal property But the medals are always won in the name of the country, never mind what the Olympic Code says Not the cash, which is the most important incentive After all, like everyone else, athletes also are human

Jobs are won these days on the strength of athletic achievement Nothing wrong, one might as well say But when the athlete takes up his job, there is an unwritten agreement between the employer and the employee that the latter will not be expected to do actual work in office or factory He buzzes off after signing the attendance register He is supposed to be at the ground, but even if he is not there, no questions are asked

In the Railways they are absorbed as Welfare Inspectors, a job that enables them to be away from office for any length of time Once employed, athletes allow themselves to stagnate But that is a different matter

Not only jobs, even promotions are demanded and gained on the strength of athletic achievement If, as a national champion, an athlete is a junior Welfare Inspector, he expects to be promoted to senior on winning an Asian medal When promotions are denied, discontent causes athletes to look out for a change Gita Zutshi, who was a clerk in the Northern Railway headquarters, became an officer in the Haryana Sports Department after she won an Asian Games gold medal The Railways could not offer her anything better than the post of a head clerk

OFFERS of flats and plots of land are yet another way of rewarding medal-winning athletes Sriram Singh, the national and Asian Games 800 metres champion and Olympic finalist, was awarded a plot of agricultural land by the Rajasthan Government Hari Chand, the former national and Asian 10,000 metres champion, had a similar offer from the Punjab Government. Such government awards are nothing new But this was a practice of a bygone age—the old colonial days of the Raj—when agricultural land, called "Murabba", was the reward for meritorious service by Indian soldiers in the cause of the Crown Then why grudge our athletes' rewards in the shape of real estate especially, when it is the practice also in many other parts of the world? The point is Is it legitimate according to the amateur code as laid down by the Olympic Movement?

Athletes spend several months in a year at training camps at the expense of the tax-payer Again, this is hardly in conformity with the code From time to time the question comes up when the world's Olympic leaders meet Serious sounding pronouncements are made but the code continues to be observed only in the breach

Since prize money tournaments were introduced some years ago, table tennis players in India can no longer be called strictly amateur A ranked player, if he goes all out on the Indian prize money circuit, however short it may be, can expect to make a decent five-figure amount in a year He hasn't had it so good and no one should grudge him his additional earnings, both above and under the table But the question that has to be honestly answered is: are Indian table tennis players pure amateurs? If they are not, then why keep up false pretences?



Dosh appeals against Kim Hughes in the Indo-Australian series

There was a time when table tennis was a parlour game called Ping Pong. It is now a very serious pursuit all over the world In fact, the membership of the world table tennis body is next in number only to that of the track and field organisation It keeps growing all the time Only recently, the Koreans were fearing a shortage of coaches because of the demand for their experts in the Middle East countries. In our own country employers sometimes vie with one another to secure the services of good players because a table tennis trophy can bring some measure of prestige to an institution

Manjit Dua, one of the finest left-handed exponents of the game the country has ever produced, was lured away from the Railways by Bharat Heavy Electronics Ltd That was the only way Delhi could be assured of his services in the National Championships In addition to what players like Dua earn from their jobs, they have liberal leave rules to enable them to play in prize money tournaments Only recently, a Government directive doubled the special casual leave for them to train at coaching camps from one to two months

For promising young players, Indian Airlines has a special scheme under which they get a stipend of Rs 250 a month in addition to free air travel and other facilities to take part in

tournaments and improve their standards. Players like Chandrashekhar and Ramesh Babu benefited from the scheme before moving on to new jobs in Banks. This year the Airlines plan to enrol half a dozen new players, including Nitin Puri, former junior national champion. In return, these young players will represent the Airlines in the National Championship for institutions affiliated to the Table Tennis Federation of India

Gone are the days when the Indian table tennis player played only for fun Now he expects returns for his talent. Returns in the shape of cash and jobs When he is denied this, he agitates Today he is stronger because he is more organised. He haggles and bargains with tournament organisers and other officials in a way that could sometimes put seasoned trade unionists to shame The female of the species is not far behind Are they all pure amateurs? Let the reader judge for himself

AMATEURISM is a term quite frequently used in various contexts these days Misunderstood, misrepresented, misquoted, nevertheless the concept still retains its popular flavour Now, then what really does the term imply in the world of cricket? Lexicon would lead us to regard an amateur as one who practises an art or a game purely as a pastime without any remuneration Or, to go still further in a different sense, the word amateur is a synonym for the unskilled Thank God, Colin Cowdrey—the celebrated "amateur"—was neither. His batsmanship was rare wine of excellent vintage and to keep rhythm with the poetry of his batting art—I must digress

Back to amateurism and its ills. Colin Cowdrey did give the impression that the game was not his bread and butter Quite true. Public school and Oxford University background did not quite prepare him to lead the life of thoroughbred professional of County cricket circuit But can he truthfully deny that cricket gave the extra helping of jam to his buttered toast? The cricket gear and clothes that carried his name allowed him more pecuniary privileges than what his eminent professional colleagues of the Test team earned from the game F S Trueman did not take too kindly to the idea of an acknowledged amateur earning more than a contract professional from the game itself In fact, in the late Fifties, Trueman was censured by Lord's for having the courage to come out with the truth in public

In English cricket, there was a time till the early Sixties when the distinction between the "amateur gentleman" and the "professional player" was apparent to the point of ridiculousness Separate dressing rooms (pre-War days) and the addition of the prefix 'Mr' to the amateur's surname were constant reminders of class consciousness of their feudal structure Hence Cowdrey, despite all contradictions, remained a true blooded amateur in the hallowed pages of the *Wisden*

This form of quixotic logic in English cricket had its origins since the days of the "Doctor" William Gregory Grace, a qualified medical practitioner, decimated all apposition with clinical efficiency by the magic wave of his willow. He had no qualms about utilising his cricketing services for financial gains. Actually, his earnings from cricket far exceeded that of his contemporary cricket professionals The simple reason was that W. G. Grace had more crowd-drawing power than anybody else. The money he received was rightfully his Then why the hypocrisy of labelling him as an amateur? However, habits die hard, more so in case of bad habits Sir Jack Hobbs never led his country (although he deputised once) because of his "pro" status Walter Hammond was forced to become an amateur in order to captain England Much later in the mid-Fifties—after the sun had set on the British Empire—sanity dawned with the appointment of Sir Len Hutton as the first professional to lead England.

Here in India comparatively we are clear in this respect Unnecessary branding of cricketers is non existent This is a healthy, pleasant surprise for we Indians are still famous for our pro-British leavings to the point of being servile. In the initial stages, the princely States looked after the financial requirements of the players Today mercantile firms and public organisations have done an excellent job in providing security to the cricketers We do not really bother to distinguish among our cricketers. Dilip Doshi—County cricket professional in England for a number of years, Madanlal Sharma—Lancashire League "pro", and Gundappa Vishwanath—Test cricketer par excellence, and all the others are categorised as plain and simple cricketers without the unnecessary ornamentation of amateur and professional status The royalty that *Sunny Days* brings is the author's rightful due What has amateur or professional status got to do with his earnings? If a player asks for appearance-fee and gets it, that is solely his business As a banker my opinion is that if a commodity or service is marketable and has social value then one should go ahead full steam and capitalise on it Indian cricket has revealed maturity and commonsense to a remarkable degree in its handling of this rather illogical though sensitive issue

Now let us take a wide view of the domestic marketability of Indian cricketers It is a known secret that in the inter-office cricket tournaments in Bombay, certain office clubs strengthen their teams by offering cash allowances to promising cricketers, especially college students The experience of some of the current Test cricketers will bear testimony to the fact. In the invitation cricket tournaments around the country, wealthy sponsors, for the sake of prestige, do not hesitate to give substantial sums by way of match-fee to the players. The cricketers in India never really had any apprehensions about accepting the incentives as they thankfully do not have to justify their amateur/professional status However, of late, a certain notion has gained much ground that Calcutta cricketers receive under-the-counter payments They do receive money no doubt like their counterparts around the country. But it is wrong to say that the cash earnings are not disclosed As in any other profession or business, some players probably do not declare their actual earnings to the tax authorities but others do. And that's that It needs no Einstein to declare that the well organised black economy in our country thrives with the help of people from all walks of life very much including the "respectable" professionals in law and medicine

Without trying to justify something that is illegal let me give you an idea of what goes on in the Leagues in the north of England. In the majority of the Leagues, every club is allowed just one contract professional The other ten for all official purposes are to be regarded as amateur club cricketers The fact is, of these ten, there are some cricketers mostly from overseas who are neither strictly amateur nor are they officially declared professional These players are paid on a match by match basis strictly under-the-table Their earnings are obviously kept secret from the tax authorities

Here in India, sometimes we hear of people branding Calcutta cricketers as mercenaries I am sure these ill-advised people are not well acquainted with the meaning of the term If by the word "mercenary" is meant doing honest work for cash incentive then everyone among us is a mercenary The eminent lawyer finds no time for the poor man The renowned doctor avoids Government hospitals and villages The business executive hops around at the slightest scent of extra perk. The professor accepts private-tuition fees without ever contemplating giving a receipt Then why the hypocrisy of casting the first stone at Sportsmen? And then again, when first-class cricketers transfer their State allegiance for some interest or other why is so much fuss made when Calcutta club cricketers change their club colours?

Man's pursuit for material wealth has not changed much in the last hundred years "The Doc" pioneered the trend among cricketers conveniently hiding his huge frame in the bushes of amateurism In fact, the very first visit of the Englishmen to Australia was the result of private sponsorship Shades of Kerry Packer even in those "glorious" days! Let us be honest and face facts Sports over the years has become big business and if you want entertainment you better realise you can no longer get it free

AS far as football is concerned, amateurism is a massive hoax. The



The match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal in progress in this year's League. What will happen to the players now that the Income Tax Department has cracked down?

reasons are very simple. By Indian football, we still mean football played in Calcutta as this city is the real centre of soccer in the country. There are various reasons for this. Some might argue that Bengal lost the last Nationals, but it should not be forgotten that they won the title five years running prior to this loss. Besides, if one takes into account the trophies won by the three top teams from Calcutta over the last few years, one reaches the inescapable conclusion that Calcutta is still the Mecca of Indian football

Let us get down to brass tacks. People connected with the game know that professionalism, to a large extent, exists in Calcutta football The main reason for this is the fringe benefits that go along with the adulation in Calcutta. A player who can make it to one of the "Big Three", Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting, is expected—on an average—to benefit to the tune of Rs. 50,000 a year. This holds true as long as he manages to remain in the club, or conversely, as long as he is in demand.

"So why this cat-and-mouse business?" a senior player who has been in the top bracket for the last eight years said "We want to be recognised." At the same time, he would think twice about leaving his permanent job and turning professional. A better way of saying it would be that he wants the best of both worlds.

"The whole thing is a hoax, especially in Calcutta," said the same player. "In other parts of the country, the best teams are the office sides—JCT, BSF, Mafatlal, Dempo, Vasco, Premier Tyres, Orkay Mills—but this is not so in Calcutta. There is a reason for this. When I used to play for a Railway side in Calcutta, I did not exert myself fully, except in the matches against the Big Three. That was because I wanted the officials of these clubs to acknowledge my talent. I knew if I caught their eye, I would probably be called up, thereby fulfilling my ambition of playing for a big side. Besides, when one plays for a big side, one receives certain other benefits.

"The other matches did not matter. I knew my services would not be terminated even if I played badly Neither, on the other hand, would I receive any additional benefits if I performed creditably What did I have to lose?

"Most ironic of all, I got a job in the Railways because of my footballing talent. The situation, though, is different now. I know that if I do not play according to the standard expected of me, my demand will fall next year So whenever I enter the field, for matches big and small, I know I have to play good football"

This amateurism controversy has become a hot topic of discussion in Calcutta's football fraternity It seems that some players of the Big Three are ready to pay tax So, in an indirect way they are admitting that they do receive money.

The ball started rolling a few years back when the Income Tax Department served notices to some leading players on the Calcutta Maidan but the whole thing was hushed up, mainly due to pressure from the State Government It generally happens that there are always a few important officials in the State Government (Ministers, MLA's, MP's and Secretaries) who are closely associated with these three clubs and who intervene

Over the last few years, the Income Tax Department have periodically re-opened these cases, only to close them again due to some pressure, which is mainly political This time, though, the IT Department seems to be serious They have, obtained a list (from the Indian Football Association) of players who have played for these clubs over the last three years, and have even asked the clubs to furnish details as to how much money the respective players have received

During the morning practice sessions, some of the players were served with notices. Most of the players and the clubs, too, have sought time from the Income Tax Department There are a few others who have taken the initiative and have settled the amount. They have, by doing so, admitted that they are getting money from their clubs. How can they participate in the League, which is supposed to be reserved for amateurs?

As the saying goes, there is a solution to every problem It is alleged that the clubs are thinking of a way out They are considering showing the expenses as medical or travelling allowances They are helping to safeguard the players and at the same time keeping their accounts clean, once and for all. This will help the players a great deal because they will not be labelled as pros and at the same time they might perhaps get rid of the "taxing" problem.

In an indirect way, the offices which field a team also encourage professionalism This may sound a bit off the track but these offices recruit players for certain posts, when in most cases the players do not have the necessary qualifications They are recruited only on the strength of their performances on the field And what happens after they are employed? They are treated like princes and get all the facilities one can think of They do not have to attend office, nor is leave a problem In an indirect way they are helping the players financially—which can be interpreted as professionalism in a very broad sense

But will all these solve the problem permanently? What one really fails to understand is why not go about it the proper way? The player quoted earlier was right when he said that players are least bothered about their performances when playing for office teams So why not go about it the other way around? These offices spend a considerable sum anyway on building up teams They might just as well spend that amount on sponsoring a club to take to professionalism The office would get the publicity it needs and at the same time the standard of the players would improve.

MIKE BREARLEY: Resurrection from the Ashes

TONY LEWIS

I AM not sure how many cricket lovers around the world appreciated what influence Mike Brearley exerted—and continues to exert, after having replaced Ian Botham in this series—on the game as captain of England He first presided over the England team when the long-established suzerainty of the Boards of Control of the various cricket-playing nations was being challenged by Kerry Packer and World Series Cricket.

Botham replaced him, but Fate decreed that Mike Brearley would come back again, ironically enough, taking over the very job Botham had inherited from him However, even when Botham first took over as England captain, I firmly believed that the Brearley attitude would remain in the England dressing rooms for a long time to come.

Brearley was—and still is—particularly straight with his players. He would not hesitate to call a team meeting and chide the most senior player if he thought he deserved it. He applied a great deal of thought to all his decisions and, as you might expect from a man who got a Triple First at St John's College in Cambridge, he had the ability to stand back from issues and to dissect the whole before tackling the specific

It was this instinct for rationalising everything that secured for Mike Brearley an immense popularity with his players. In a period of three years in which the paramount discussion was always money and rewards for players, he was their most articulate and effective advocate. He was not popular in establishment circles. He challenged authority, inspected their decisions



Brearley in conversation with Bedi



Brearley and the late Ken Barrington inspect the pitch at the Wankhede Stadium prior to the Jubilee Test Also in the picture is Alec Bedser

and approved them if they stood the test, but criticised them and worked against them if he thought they were bad for the profession of a cricketer

Take for example his refusal to turn out his team for a photograph at a Test match in Birmingham "But it is the official team photograph," pleaded the man from the news agency Brearley simply asked him, "Who will be making the money out of this photograph? Only you as you sell it to publications around the world So, we will have your photograph, but you must pay the team " The photographer fled Brearley was right

In Australia, a renowned English journalist, Ian Woolridge, was making a documentary film for television and he asked the England captain if the cameras could film inside the dressing room Brearley said yes and demanded money. Woolridge said no and left.

Many reporters from many media can tell their tales of asking Mike Brearley for interviews "How much money are you paying?," has always been the response There are two reactions to his behaviour Some say that the captaincy of England embraces a responsibility to conduct a reasonable amount of public relations by way of radio and Press interviews, others acknowledge that he has rationalised the cricketer's job and not before time. Was the cricketer not the most exploited of all professional sportsmen?

Whichever way you think, and I personally have been quite happy to see him make his point but he should never be underestimated. He conducted the players' revolution from within the established game. It is no coincidence that the England team has a commercial agent and that it is Brearley's own England players no longer attend the many invitations to stores or other fringe commercial activities, either at home or abroad, if they are not properly contracted and paid their price (Just think, we used to amble along anywhere just for a free suitcase!)

MIKE BREARLEY was not prepared to be a part of the triangular series in Australia two winters ago unless the pay was appropriate. How much were the former Packer players getting? How much were the promoters, the Australian Board receiving? Questions, questions It was about time someone worked them out

Gone are the days of the spirit "My country calls and here I am " Now the deal has to be right Cricket is professional entertainment and the entertainers are the players.

Of course where this argument annoys the amateur workers for the cause of cricket is that the top few can be greedy only at the expense of the lower order Monies coming into the Test match coffers have to nurture the game from the very grass roots. It is difficult to appeal for cash year after year. Test matches, income is vital to the sustenance of the whole game.

There are other critics of the Test circuit and surprisingly, these are in the body of the County game in Britain, the County professionals. The English professional who has never played for England earns a basic wage this season of £4,850 a year. Those who play Tests in 1980 will this year receive £1,400 per Test So it may happen that Graham Gooch of Essex, for example, will collect £8,400 from six Tests and another £2,500 from one day internationals and prize monies, taking his summer's haul, including his County wage, to £15,000 This is three times the earnings of senior players in his County side, men of talent who are colourful parts of the professional entertainment business, such as Ray East, Keith Fletcher and others The differential between a Gooch and an East is too great, say the professionals.

They also concede that it is impossible to change now How can you impose a wage freeze in days of inflation? However, it is commonly believed that the deal was struck too hard in the first place, when Mike Brearley's name was associated with the counter-Packer movement which found an initial £1,000 per Test match for the England players who had stayed at home The Brearley touch has been applied mainly to the top echelon which he inhabited during the wage revolution

It will therefore remain Mike Brearley's legacy to the game that he rationalised the profession and helped the top cricketers achieve what they longed for—parity with the company executive, a stardom to compare with the international golfer or the tournament tennis player

As cricket entered an era of television coverage linked to sponsorship he, as much as anyone, saw to it that the England team and its individuals obtained a remuneration suited to their top billing.

Three faces of Brearley

S. VENKATARAGHAVAN, former Indian captain, explains the reasons for Brearley's success

I GUESS I could claim a close friendship with Mike Brearley and naturally I have had the opportunity to observe Mike in three different profiles—Mike the man, Mike the cricketer and Mike the captain

As a man, I like Mike tremendously During my Derbyshire days I naturally ran into him on many an occasion but I have special reason to fondly remember the 1979 series when we were rival captains Mike's is a classic example of deceptive appearances Behind the ostensible he's-a-jolly-good-fellow exterior lies a very strong man—shrewd, calculative and extremely sure of himself

As for Brearley the cricketer, it is indeed a pity that he has not quite found the form with the bat to assume himself of a place in the English team It is not as though his batting prowess is poor He has got runs at lower grades of cricket but in Test cricket he has not been able to get the kind of runs that would justify his inclusion in the side

Would I select a person like Brearley solely on the basis of his success as a captain? Well, that would depend upon the situation If there is no other option, as the England selectors found themselves after Ian Botham's failure, a man like Brearley has to be



NIHAL BHATTACHARYA

Brearley with journalists during the Bombay Jubilee Test

You talk to him and you realise that he knows what he is talking about, which is not something that can be said of many other people. His academic background surfaces in matters of cricket too That explains his deeply analytical approach to the game of cricket And more than anything else, he is able to bring out the best from each of his team-mates This is because he is a great exponent in the realm of the establishment of human relations

One thing that strikes me about Mike as a person is his absent-mindedness I remember that during the Lord's Test, Mike and I went out to toss but he completely forgot that I had won the toss He came back to the pavilion and insisted that he had won the toss and not I But as it turned out, I had made up my mind to bat first while Mike had decided to put us in, so either way the toss did not matter We batted first

Later, talking to Robin Hobbs, I discovered that he had also experienced Brearley's absent-mindedness while captaining Glamorgan against Middlesex in a County match You just can't help developing a healthy respect for this mild-mannered and easy going Englishman

appointed solely because he is an excellent captain I do not think that there was any other way out

As a captain, well, I need not say anything about Mike His record is there for all of us to judge He has worked wonders with not only the England team but also back home for Middlesex in the County championship As I said before, he is a great exponent in human relations, getting that 'extra bit' from each of his players That's what makes him an excellent leader And as a captain, he plays it tough and fair

One of the first things he took up after his recent reappointment was the question of Lillee going off the field I would have objected to it if I were in Mike's place It just shows that this perfect gentleman can be a tough customer as a captain

I also remember when, in 1979, there was this business about not bowling bouncers at tailenders Brearley told me that he did not consider me a tailender because he knew I could bat straight and therefore would not prevent his bowlers from bouncing at me And he was right That for you is Mike Brearley, the man who plays it straight and tough

Mike Brearley as I know him

RAJU MUKHERJI

THE cordon of slip fieldsmen crouched low and alert as Bob Willis' windmill bowling action reached its delivery point The batsman shuffled across and let the ball pass

To the outlookers, another Anglo-Australian Test had begun Unnoticed in the stands, a drama was being enacted at that very moment right in the middle of the ground, the drama that was to have far-reaching consequences in the next few years Bubbling with enthusiasm, the young debutant, Ian Botham, at second slip, stood a full two yards in front of his skipper, Michael Brearley at first slip and Anthony Greig at third

Unobtrusive as always, Brearley signalled the new man back to his allotted place Botham, with the impetousity of youth, stared hard at his captain but did not move Left hand raised, Brearley waited and so did Willis The batsman as well as the outfielders did not fathom the reason for the moment's delay Then, as Botham retraced his steps, the hand came down and Willis began his run up again

That moment singularly jerked Botham from a stupor It did more It alerted volatile Tony Greig that no pranks would be tolerated It dawned upon Geoff Boycott that the Middlesex man was in control For the next few years the England team to a man learnt to admire and respect the handsome man with the pleasing disposition

Inheriting the Yorkshire qualities from his paternal side, Michael Brearley combined these with the subtler attributes of the South from his mother into a devastating combination of steely nerves and philosophical outlook Cambridge University gave the diamond its shape and polish

The fact that he led the B A (Philosophy) class in rank was the result of his Karma Yogic practice of devoting full concentration and energy towards effort without a thought for the result. He carried the mantle lightly

In the highly competitive British Civil Service Examinations the name of Michael Brearley topped the list. A wide choice of careers lay in front of the unassuming man. He chose lecturership For two years at the Newcastle University he brought all his knowledge and wisdom into play for the benefit of his students

But deep inside him, a restlessness grew. For an ordinary scholar a dis-



MIKE BREARLEY

tinguished teaching career at one of the leading British Universities would have been the pinnacle of success. But he was no ordinary scholar. He soon realised that scholarly pursuit need not tie a man to his blackboard and study table. He did not want to thrive on borrowed learning and passive intellectualism He wanted a wider canvas to give full scope to his multidimensional genius to develop And the obvious choice was Lord's

As he walked down the tree-lined boulevard of St Johns' Wood Road towards the office of Middlesex County Cricket Club, memories of his past association with Lord's came flooding in. Those were the days of strawberries and cream, decency and manners. They enjoyed their cricket and respected its tradition.

His own batting prospered. He did not possess the artistry of Vishwanath, neither did he compete with Lloyd's power. Richards' batting genius was beyond him, so was Gavaskar's technique. Brearley studiously analysed his technical limitations and developed his own style of batting. In the tough grind of County cricket he scored enough runs to justify his selection as the captain's deputy in the MCC touring party to India in 1976-77

As the Greig-led MCC team waited at New Delhi Airport for the routine customs formalities and to collect their luggage, the vice-captain was a man apart It was not for him the condescending smiles, the loud behaviour, or the affected laughter at private jokes

Here was an educated man in the real sense of the term. He remained in the background, spoke with knowledge and charm, kept his eyes and ears open to take in everything of this ancient land As part of a winning combination, he contributed some useful runs and took some splendid catches

But more than anything else he was the ambassador extraordinary. He evinced a keen interest in the country and its people At Gauhati, during the East Zone fixture Michael Brearley and his team-mates were all at sea against the wiles of Aloke Bhattacharya He was fascinated by Bhattacharya's action, he told me. Conversation continued and God only knows if we left any subject untouched As we parted I left some paperback volumes of Swami Vivekananda for Mike

One fine day, within a month, a letter arrived from Madras. It was from Mike. He had found the time in the midst of his busy schedule to go through the serious "Works" of Swamiji. And he was ecstatic in his own quiet way. At Gauhati I remembered telling him that I found it surprising that a man of his scholarly background should waste time playing cricket.

Obviously, mine was a conventional Indian sentiment. That day he had joked that cricket was the only way he could go around the world at somebody else's expense.

But in this letter Mike added a touch of philosophy to his previous justification. Now he took a leaf out of Swamiji's teachings. He claimed that an apple tree and an oak tree had different functions. Similarly, not every brilliant scholar should follow the conventional careers. My eyes brimmed. Here was my idol, Swami Vivekananda, speaking to me through Mike. That moment dawned upon me the real meaning of the conception of Karma Yoga

1977 was the year of Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee anniversary. And Britain—the home of pomp and ceremony—was in the midst of euphoria and celebrations.

But the cricket scene was far from cheerful The WSC recruitment news had leaked and Tony Greig lost his captaincy The obvious choice was Mike The arrival of Botham and the re-entry of Boycott, coupled with a brand of dynamic leadership inspired the England team to victory as well as to substitute uncouth gamesmanship by quiet confidence.

THE Mike Magic was at work. Test matches were won with ease, the



SEEMA MUKHERJI

Mike Brearley and the author during a cruise down the Ganges

He knew that to the Britishers, cricket was not a mere game of skill, it was an inheritance to be proud of and cherished And here at Lord's he was to make a career But still something rankled He kept thinking and theorising

ACQUIRING experience as the cricket seasons rolled by, Michael Brearley understood that to hold their heads high in competitive cricket, his boys would have to develop their own talents and not copy others The philosopher-cricketer realised that in the hard-core commercial world it was only the victor who mattered There were no points for the cheerful loser

He set about his mission with all the flair of a natural leader He combined tactical brilliance with a cool confidence and inspired his team to bring off victories from seemingly impossible situations

result of superb tactical planning. The Ashes were regained but the captain's batting performance did not match his leadership ability. Here again Mike gave glimpses of his greatness.

Many a man of character would have had difficulty in keeping his temper, would have lost the respect of his team, would have behaved irrationally. But here was a different captain, an outstanding man. He met the Press and the public with equanimity, he earned the admiration of friends and foes, he remained magnanimous in victory.

He kept his own problems to himself and never for a moment did his behaviour or his speech raise any eyebrows I was in England at the time and saw him only from a distance either on TV or from the stands at Trent Bridge and Leeds

I purposely kept away as he was busy. But even then, here was a different person. Mike wrote and called up often even if it was only to enquire if I was comfortable and enjoying myself



Brearley amidst some of the children at the SOS village Salt Lake

THE Michael Brearley advance continued as the England team retained the Ashes in Australia. The teams from New Zealand, Pakistan, and India were brushed aside in the process An injury in Pakistan kept him away from his favourite pastime for a while Then all of a sudden, an announcement came through that the Australian trip would be his last tour abroad as a playing member

Finally his triumphant march came to a sudden halt, as it must The law of averages cannot be forsaken However, here I felt Mike set a great example of cultured character In modern cricket, especially Test cricket, captains of defeated sides have really never failed with the excuses, which at times even questioned the integrity of umpires But thankfully Mike proved himself a glorious exception He gave credit where credit was due and accepted failure with composure and restraint

Some months ago, Mike confided to me that he did not expect to be recalled to lead the England team as he had declined to tour abroad His batting form was encouraging and he was still enjoying the hard grind of the County cricket circuit

Then all of a sudden, England, one match down and four to go, requested the captain extraordinary to take over the reins once again The fact that Mike did accept the captaincy and brought about magnificent, miraculous victories should not require any reminders

What has surfaced was the man's strength of character Cynics, of which there should not be any shortage here, will deny him his tactical brilliance as well as his outstanding personality But nobody could possibly fail to salute the man's courage to readily accept a sinking ship in mid-stream The West Indian tour had destroyed the masthead of the ship in no uncertain manner

Further, Hughes' Australians in the second Test rendered the ship's rudder useless The ship was wrecked well and proper To have the courage to come forward to shoulder responsibility in the face of certain disaster and to possess the qualities of converting the situation into a miraculous success is a marvellous combination of human intellect and enterprise

And Brearley in these days of mediocrity and compromise proved beyond debate that a natural leader had no substitute Early this year Mike had come down to Calcutta for an exhibition cricket match, more a goodwill visit than anything else We met. It was exactly four years since our last meeting

We had exchanged letters but not very frequently But then what is four years between friends? Typically, he dropped luncheon invitations at clubs and wanted to be taken to the SOS village at the Salt Lake City on the eastern periphery of Calcutta Here, he found, was a haven for destitute children and women Magnificent job indeed

Mike, who spends his off season doing research in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, exchanged ideas with my wife, Seema, who has taught spastic kids The staff at the SOS village especially Mrs Rehana Dutta was most cooperative and Mike thought this was the most educative part of his current visit

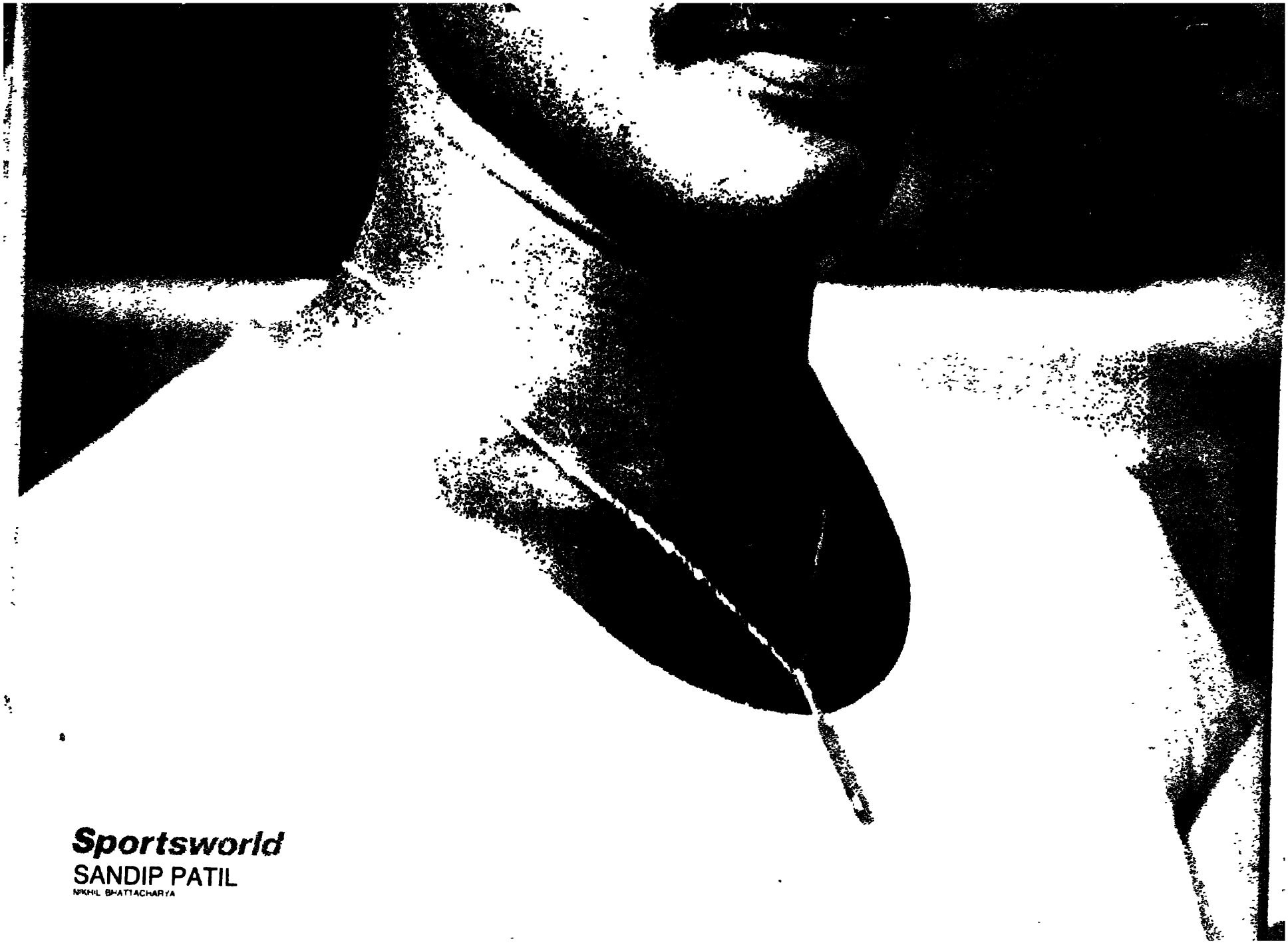
A cruise down the River Ganges was spent answering Mike's innumerable queries, especially Calcutta and its history I was on loose soil, but my good wife saved the day Tandoori chicken, parathas, prawn malai curry and palao washed down by lassi I could understand But when Mike asked for srikhand, I was aghast

However that is another story, another time.



The gentleman of English cricket expresses his affection towards children at the SOS village





Sportsworld

SANDIP PATIL

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Sandeep Patil:"I had sport in my blood"

HARESH MUNWANI met the young star to trace the roots of his career.

"I DON'T know if I will be selected It's very simple, if I get the runs in the trial games I will be picked for the Tests against England this winter If I fail --well, that's it " Voicing these apprehensions was none other than Sandeep Madhusudhan Patil, the most successful Indian batsman on its last tour of Australia and New Zealand Whether it was modesty or the knowledge that the selection policies in this country can be rather fickle that prompted Sandeep to utter these words is difficult to say The fact remains that Patil does not take his place in the national side for granted

Sporting a new beard,. Patil has handled himself with great dignity following his sudden projection to the national limelight in the wake of his phenomenal success Down Under The 25-year-old Bombay cricketer may appear to be casual, but don't be taken in by those looks Behind that exterior there is plenty of fire and intensity. There is nothing that gives him more of a thrill than belting the ball over the boundary

"Around Shivaji Park, the locality where I grew up as a young boy, there were a lot of games being played My father turned out on the badminton courts and cricket grounds As for my mother, she indulged in badminton and tennis My parents played the mixed doubles in badminton at a very competitive level"

Talking about his early introduction to the game, Sandeep Patil continued "My father was the cricket captain of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana team This club had a very rich tradition when it came to cricket. Well known Indian cricketers like Vijay Manjrekar, Ajit Wadekar, Subhash and Baloo Gupte, Ramakant Desai and Manohar Hardikar all stayed in the vicinity and as such were always dropping into our house "

"I also played a lot of games. Tennis, cycling, swimming and badminton were my favourites During those days we had a lot of servants As a lad, I was a big bully I would order them to bowl to me all the time If I played with the other boys the problem was that once I was out I had to let the other fellows bat. But, this way, having my servants to bowl at me ensured that I could bat all the time Then came a time when my parents felt that I should choose between badminton and cricket and



Sandeep bowling in the nets in Australia

concentrate on one in right earnest My parents were eager that I take up cricket because the family already had badminton players Another reason was, of course, the attractive remuneration a cricketer earns as compared to that of a badminton player "

Sandeep continued "When I was studying in the seventh standard my parents took me to Mr Ankush Vaidya who was the cricket coach at Balmohan Vidya Mandir Though I was admitted to the nets the other boys were all against me because they felt my father's influence had got me in In addition, these boys reasoned that I was too young to be playing in the senior nets Honestly, it was a very disgusting feeling When I played in matches I would field the whole day I never got bowling and went in to bat at number ten The hostility towards me had to be seen to be believed I was fed up I even entertained thoughts of giving up cricket altogether " "But the incident that decided my fate occurred during my college days I used to represent Ruia College in cricket and badminton That year I pulled a muscle during the inter-collegiate badminton match This happened a few days before a crucial cricket match for the college It was then that my mother sat explained that in trying to specialise in two games, I might end up without shining in any of them. I saw the point she was trying to make and decided to restrict myself to cricket," Sandeep summarised.

"At school and at college, the virtues of qualities like responsibility, concentration and determination were lost on me. I would go and hit a quick 40 or 50, execute some elegant and stinging shots and throw away my wicket".Patil continued, "I made my Ranji Trophy debut in 1975-76 season against Hyderabad Bombay fielded first and I had enough reason to be satisfied with my bowling performance I captured four wickets in 50 overs conceding 79 runs But the disaster occurred when I was dismissed for zero while batting It was my first big match and I had blown the chance.

"I WAS playing well that season and was very disappointed with my duck. I realised that my career could be in jeopardy. In the pavilion I was crying, literally tears flowing down my cheeks Ashok Mankad, the Bombay skipper came and consoled me He said not to lose heart as there was still the second innings Ashok emphasised that no one was going to hand it to me on a platter He said I would have to make the most of the chances I got. 'If you throw your chances away you have only yourself to blame', he said Those days I was doing a lot of bowling In the three Ranji games that year I bowled 167 overs

"Bombay's leading players were away assisting India on the tour of New Zealand and the West Indies the next year I played in the first game against Saurashtra For the second game I was not in the final eleven. During this game the team to play in the Irani Trophy match was announced and I was not in the fifteen for Bombay Here once again Ashok Mankad told me not to get upset and lose heart I don't remember exactly what he said but they were words of encouragement Looking back, I think it was the turning point in my life It was then that I decided if it was performances the selectors wanted, that is precisely what they would get I wanted to make sure that such shameful incidents did not occur in my life again I psyched myself to concentrate, which was something I had never done before. I promised myself a century in every match, and if I got it, I started all over again in a bid to reach 200."

"All along, I was playing for Shivaji Park Gymkhana. But I found that being in a star-studded team I was not getting much of the action. Milind Rege, captain of the Cricket Club of India and a good friend of mine, made an offer saying that I would bat at number three. before Milind had completed the sentence, I said yes, simply because this way there would be more opportunities I was getting longer bowling spells at CCI " Patil added, "Here I was being groomed properly and the emphasis on healthy competi-

tive play was another boon.

"In 1979, the Indian team went to England. I was not in that squad, so I went to Blighty on my own to play for a club side. John Snow, that great bowler, was there too. He passed on a lot of tips to me during my stint with the club Snow taught me how to bowl on all kinds of wickets and to all types of batsmen Accuracy and control were the cardinal principles for any type of bowler. Above all, Snow translated for me the meaning of the word professionalism, not literally though" Sandeep acknowledges.

"On the basis of my performances against Hughes' Aussies in the match against West Zone at Ahmedabad, I was in the twelve to take on Pakistan.

"The first Test was at Bangalore Roger Binny was also in the side and this meant that either Roger or I would make our Test debut at Bangalore In the Ranji Trophy game, a few days prior to the Test, I got 60 and 50 in the two innings against Maharashtra Binny made a double century in his Ranji Trophy match. Roger played the Test

"I was trying to figure out what was needed from me by the selectors" Sandeep revealed "Sunil Gavaskar told me just because I played the most attractive looking innings did not mean that I would get into a Test side In the final analysis it is the number of runs you score that matter No side has ever won a Test because it played more stylishly and entertainingly If you want to make it to the Test side you have to prove that you can stay at the wicket for a long time

"A few days before the fourth Test was to begin in Madras I got 211 against Saurashtra and right enough I was called for national duty I vividly remember on the morning of the Madras Test match I was shaving when Sunil came and told me the good news I would be telling lies if I said I wasn't tense But that one game was enough to illustrate to me the vast difference between a Test match and a three day game I did not pass even 20 in my first Test But what gave me immense satisfaction was that no one questioned my potential as a Test player In that short innings I was able to convince people that I had it in me to be an India player " Enthusiastically, Patil adds "I had a pretty decent Test at Calcutta I got 60 and 30 on a bad wicket, but I flopped in the Jubilee Test against England I feel I was unnecessarily tense, perhaps because it was my first Test on my home ground, Bombay "

SOON after the Adelaide Test, Greg Chappell told me, "everything is working for you and luck is on your side. Stick to the same attitude and approach, don't listen to anybody, just play your strokes. A batsman like you will soon be a hundred plus if he stays two hours at the your strokes. I think all you need to do is to be more selective with regard to the balls you choose to make your strokes against Don't make shots at each and every ball. Curb your impetuousity."

Patil, who has scored 635 runs in the nine Tests he has played for an average of 42.33, said "Now I don't play for the crowd any more. I play for myself. If the people want a six I am not going to oblige. If it suits me, fine, otherwise bad luck."

Reflecting on the ball with which Len Pascoe knocked him unconscious, Sandeep said with a distinct tightning of his face muscles, "That ball really took off after pitching I was in two minds whether to duck or to move my face away from the line of the delivery I took my eyes away from the ball for a split second and it proved my undoing. The ball seemed to follow me "

Sandeep's critics have levelled the charge against him that he is a slow mover on the field. The six foot, 72 kg man does not disagree. But most people go by his casual, listless walk, which at times be mistaken for a lack of involvement with the proceedings. If you observe his walk, you will get the point. When Sandeep walks the upper half of his body does not move much, nor is it as supple as that of others He said "On the Australian tour I made a conscious effort to be quick on the field I did improve but of course there is still a long way to go."

Denis Lillee No conversation with Sandeep these days is complete with-



Sandeep relaxes at home

out talking of the Australian bowler. Patil said "Lillee is a great bowler He will bowl three to four overs to you at a speed of 60 miles per hour In the fifth over, without any extra visible physical exertion he will hurl the ball at an amazing 75 miles per hour. Denis is always trying something. He never gives up Factors like a fast or slow wicket, or for that matter whether the innings has just begun or is 100 overs old, don't matter to Lillee."

In an obvious reference to the admiration he has for Lillee, Sandeep confessed "In the Adelaide Test, the wicket was not giving much help to the fast bowlers Hogg and Pascoe gave up But Lillee, no sir! He started bowling leg cutters, off cutters, fastish leg breaks You have to be prepared to expect everything from him "

"As a batsman I like to go for my shots from the word go. I fancy hitting the ball all around. Grafting is not my cup of tea. I know there is a high element of risk in my kind of batting but the point is I have always believed in taking risks."

"I live by those rules. Take it or leave it," quipped Sandeep

As for his bowling ability, Patil feels "I am essentially a stock bowler I like to bowl, if I can help it, a tight line and length I would rather bowl ten overs for 14 runs than capture wickets My aim is to contain a batsman. Moreover, I come in handy if a regular bowler is injured or the captain wants to try out somebody to break a big stand "

How is it that a man who is such an aggressive batsman prefers to be a negative bowler? "Is it not a challenge for me to bowl in such a way that few runs are scored of my bowling? I know exactly how a bowler feels when a batsman is scoring runs, thus I want to deny the batsman that thrill." As if to prove his point, Sandeep adds, tongue-in-cheek "I have captured seven wickets in Tests, you know "

As a batsman, Sandeep relies on timing and eyesight rather than technique. He has a tendency to play away from the body This season, Patil will be playing with a lighter bat "I am going to switch to one which weights 2.9 kg The reason for the shift is that the 3 1 kg bat I was using did not allow me much comfort while playing the cut or the hook."



Chris Evert Lloyd: My heart-breaks and ambi-tions



Chris and husband John share a tender moment

THERE she was, the focus of the world's attention as she held up the coveted Wimbledon trophy She was all smiles in front of hundreds of cameras But minutes later, she was in tears in her hotel room "I went back to the hotel room and cried," recalls Chris Evert Lloyd "Basically it was because I was depressed When I tell people that, they can't believe their ears They say 'Winning Wimbledon should make you feel great' But that was not the case with me then "

"I went back to an empty hotel room At that time I had no rela tionships and I was single I felt very lonely I was totally alone I had no one to share my joy with That is one thing about success If you have someone to share it with, it is much sweeter But if you are alone, it is not very fulfilling at all "

But that was in 1976 Things are very different for Chris Evert Lloyd now At Wimbledon in 1981, she had someone to share her success, her British tennis-playing husband John, who helped her prepare for the tournament. At last, things have stabilised in the personal and professional life of world's best woman tennis player

Ten years ago, she stormed onto the international tennis scene by becoming the youngest semi-finalist in the U S Open She won 94 per cent of her matches that year and was ranked number three in the United States, at the tender age of 16 With that began the career of a new phenomenon of teenage tennis A prodigy she was then A champion she continues to be, even after shedding the Cinderella image

From then on, life has been event ful, exciting and challenging for her One thing, however, has remained constant in her life she started as a baseline player and she still remains one A couple of years ago, in her opening match at Wimbledon against some unknown opponent, friends offered her up to a hundred dollars if she would serve and volley only the first point, just the first point She wanted to do it, but felt she just could not "I was scared about what would happen if I got my feet all tangled up

and fell on my face," she says.

Other things have changed, including the men in her life There have been three important ones, the three J's Jimmy Evert, Jimmy Connors and John Lloyd

JIMMY EVERT introduced his five children to tennis at an early age. The oldest, Drew, 27, is a teaching pro John, 20, is a professional player Jeanne, 23, is a former junior champion who was on the pro tour between 1975 and 1978. The youngest, 13 year-old Claire is one of the best young players in the country today and the closest friend of Andrea Jaeger. Jimmy Evert himself made the pre-quarter finals at Forest Hills in 1942, but lost to the eventual champion Ted Schroeder.

He taught Chris the fundamentals of tennis under the Florida sun, when she was a grade student at Aquinas High School Tennis did not affect her life as a normal fun-loving student Her mother Colette, who used to accompany her on her early tours, is accepted as a gracious lady in tennis circles

The saga of the pony-tailed prodigy began in 1971 At the age of 19, she reached the summit of the sport, winning Wimbledon and taking the coveted number one world ranking in 1974 She also won the French and Italian titles that year, in addition to a 56-match winning streak

Chris first met Jimmy Connors at Wimbledon in 1972 That day, the two of them walked around the streets of London till four in the morning They had so very much in common, but it was both an idyllic and rocky romance. They both won Wimbledon in 1974 and the wedding was scheduled for the fall season

"I started to have doubts about a permanent commitment," Chris says "But I never had any doubts about Jimmy." The relationship was under a lot of strain after Wimbledon and the wedding was called off in October "I was obsessed, totally consumed by the relationship Afterwards, I felt I had to start all over again to learn who I was Then I was alone and lonely, and hurt "

Ironically enough, the heartbreak motivated her to put everything she had into her tennis She reached her peak during this period, winning 94 per cent of her matches and 72 per cent of her tournaments The cold and hard will inside a pretty frame revealed itself on the clay and cement

"I wouldn't even call a friend on the day of a match," she recalls "I'd be scared of disrupting my concentration. I couldn't allow anything to compete with tennis " The game, by then had become an obsession with her "Tennis was the foundation and security in my life, and I didn't dare risk losing it," she said

THEN came the security she had been looking for John Lloyd, the British Davis Cup star and the world's number 25 male tennis player was introduced to her in the Tea Room at Wimbledon during the 1978 tourna-



Jimmy Connors in action at Wimbledon this year on one of the outer courts He and Chris seemed made for each other but their wedding was called off shortly after the two of them won Wimbledon in 1974 "I never had any doubts about Jimmy" said Chris



Mr and Mrs J M Lloyd in profile

ment. Their first date was scheduled for the evening of the ladies' singles final Chris lost the match to Martina Navratilova, and the new man in her life wondered if she was in any mood to go out after the loss "Of course I do, why not?" she responded

They were married on April 17, 1979 By then John Lloyd had slipped down to 331 in the computer rankings What is beautiful about the relationship is that John is not at all insecure because of Chris's outstanding success After the breakup with Connors, she dated several men, including movie star Bert Reynolds and President Ford's son Jack "I found most men couldn't handle the fact that I was Chris Evert and that only made me more uncomfortable," she recalls. But John is different and that has made all the difference in her life

Marriage did not solve her problems automatically. She had to take a break from tennis—which had been her sole security so far—and figure out her priorities In 1980, she suffered a series of losses to Tracy Austin, five straight matches with three of them in ten days. Chris took a three-month break and returned to the European circuit to finish second and to regain the U.S Open title For her, the 1980 U.S. Open was the most thrilling achievement of her tennis career for she had great satisfaction in dethroning her arch rival Tracy Austin and then beating Mandlikova in the final. History had taken a full turn. She had started there as a teenage wonder and had returned to beat a couple of her clones, as John McEnroe calls them.

This year, she lost to Mandlikova in the semi-final of the French Open, a shock for the clay court queen. But she won Wimbledon in style, undeterred. "I know that when I am determined, I'm still the best. I proved it last year at the U S Open and I proved it here", she said after her third Wimbledon win

"The thing that keeps me going is that I don't think I am the best I can be yet. I don't want to retire until I reach my peak The thought of breaking a few more records appeals to me I'd love to play another three or four years", she says. "What I want more than just winning is to master my game. If I were a perfect player and had no weaknesses, I would have retired long ago There would be no where else to go. I still have weaknesses—not glaring weaknesses—but I could improve on my movement and my volley That's my goal now. to continue to improve and be a more well-rounded player, to peak."

Chris wants to be remembered for her clay court successes and her consistency "If you can react the same way to winning and losing, that's a big accomplishment That quality is more important because it stays with you for the rest of your life and there is going to be a life after tennis that's a lot longer than your tennis life" she says

"I always give the other person credit rather than dwell on how I wasn't playing at 100 per cent or how I didn't do this or do that," she adds. "That takes away from the other person's happiness."

According to Chris, this has been the main reason for her dislike for Tracy Austin who did not acknowledge her as number one last year, when the whole world did But she feels that Tracy's layoff from the game gave the youngster a lot of time to think and that has changed her attitude considerably "When you are younger, you're not so sensitive to other people's feelings It's easier when you get older "

Age certainly has helped Chris mature She is still a very emotional person who will cry because the Press does not notice she has lost five pounds "I'm an introvert," she says. "I'm not a very aggressive a person. I'm not like Billie Jean King It has been hard for me to come out and express myself in public."

At 26, she is the first lady of tennis. In her 10 Wimbledon appearances, she has won thrice, was runner up four times, and reached the semi-final the other three occasions She has five U.S Open and four French titles to her credit Hana Mandlikova calls her "the best player we have had in the world."

Perhaps Andrea Jaeger puts it more realistically. "Chris just does everything so much better than you When she is playing well, you can't do a lot.. she can play on any surface and play her baseline game. She can do anything really."

Profile

Clerc: King Luis the First

He has not yet been officially crowned, but his victory in the US Clay Court Championships at Indianapolis means that he is approaching superstar status. HARESH MUNWANI, who met the brilliant Argentinian at Wimbledon last year, traces his success story



As of now, there is a two-word phrase which is synonymous with winning tennis. That phrase—Jose Luis Clerc.

The 22-year-old native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has burned up the tour once again this year with his scorching play, leaving players shattered in his wake, trophies on his shelf and prize money in his pocket.

This year, Clerc has already won six tournaments. Four of these victories came in successive weeks last month. Clerc's triumph at the US Championships at Boston; Washington Star International Tournament at Washington D. C , Volvo International Event at North Conway and the US Clay Court Championships at Indianapolis means that he has not been beaten in his last 25 visits to the court.

Besides winning these back-to-back events, Clerc also won the Italian Open and the Florence tournament. In terms of money, Clerc has already pocketed $194,000 this year and is sitting pretty in the No 4 slot on the ATP computer.

Clerc served ample notice for his critics to sit up and marvel at his performances. In 1978, Clerc's second year on the circuit, he reached the finals of seven Grand Prix events, winning three In 1979 Clerc made it to three finals, winning one but he enjoyed great success in 1980, winning six of the seven finals he reached As far as his ranking was concerned, he had a big jump on the ATP computer in 1978 when he perched himself at the No. 15 slot after being 278 in 1977 Two years later, he was in the top ten on the tennis circuit when he ended 1980 as No. 8 Borg remains the only clay court player Clerc has not humbled on the court. Surely, on the evidence of all this, Jose Clerc is the most promising young player on the tennis circuit today

During his purple patch last month, Clerc registered convincing victories over Ivan Lendl and Guillermo Vilas, two clay court specialists He has also beaten Connors and McEnroe and as such, his claims of being the Argentine number one cannot be disputed Vilas, who had occupied that position till now, would probably be the first one to admit it.

Clerc has proved that the arduous part of the Grand Prix suited his temperament perfectly and that his performances last year on the clay circuits were not flukes. Clerc arrived in Boston from Bucharest, where he was playing the Davis Cup for Argentina against Rumania While in transit in Rome, Clerc lost his baggage and arrived in America with just one set of tennis clothes But neither this incident nor the jet lag, nor for that matter his opponents could arrest his winning streak.

I first met Jose Luis Clerc (pronounced Ho-zay Lewis Kerk) when he was playing Vijay Amritraj in the first round at Wimbledon in 1980. The Indian just ran through the first two sets, which was not surprising since

Vijay's game is more suited to grass. Just eight weeks previously Amritraj had beaten Clerc 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 at the WCT Frankfurt event and as such, a lot of people were expecting Vijay to beat Clerc who was seeded sixteenth That the tournament committee attached considerable significance to the match was proved when the tie was played on Centre Court

A single loose point by the Indian was enough inspiration to Clerc The game was halted because of bad light but, on resumption, Clerc won the third and fourth sets with consummate ease.

TALKING to me in the dressing room that evening, Clerc said "When I was down by two sets, I decided to hit the ball harder and flatter. I served with much more power. Tomorrow I shall kill him, no doubt about that."

And so it was. Amritraj surrendered the fifth set rather meekly and this was the first time I realised what confidence can do to a player's fortunes. It also proved that Clerc was determined to do well, irrespective of how badly placed he was in the match

Last year, in the sweltering heat and humidity of the American summer, Clerc beat Mel Purcell for the title at Indianapolis and at South Orange, he bested John McEnroe on clay courts for the second time. At Washington he lost to Brian Gottfried in the finals.

In the month of May this year, Clerc found his groove again on his native clay courts, winning back-to-back tournaments in Italy, reaching the semi-finals of a Grand Prix event and the quarter-finals at a fourth.

The streak started at Forest Hills, where he reached the quarter-finals before bowing to Dibbs He began to shift into high gear at Florence, where he won his second championship in three years with a straight set victory over Raul Ramirez

That was followed by his first major championship, the Italian Open. Clerc's victory at the Foro Italico was more than just another indication that his time was on hand as a legitimate superstar because his, mechanical skills had matured. It was an obvious signal that mentally, Clerc was now ready to do battle with and subdue the top players in the world in the big tournaments

This was most visible in his showdown with Adriano Panatta in the Italian Open quarters where Clerc not only battled against Panatta's great skill but also the hostile and sometimes obnoxious Roman fans, both successfully

"I'm very happy and now have more confidence because I was able to concentrate in my head for a big tournament," said Clerc after his three-set triumph

Atop the winning crest, Clerc rode it all the way home, knocking off Ivan Lendl in straight sets in the semi-finals and then Victor Pecci in the final, closing out the championship with a love set

Clerc continued to rule at the big one, the French Open Slightly annoyed at the scheduling committee not putting him on the stadium court until the second week, Clerc took out his hostility on his opponents, blasting his way through the first four rounds with the loss of only one set.

When he finally got on the centre court, Clerc made the most of it, never giving an inch against Connors, who made that cliche a way of life on the court Clerc engineered a 46, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 victory, the last set lasting 30 minutes

"I didn't miss one ball in the fifth set," said Clerc, who had defeated Connors at Longwood last year in the quarter-finals The winning streak finally broke against Lendl in the semi-finals at the French Open Clerc's loss was not so much a result of any poor playing on his part but instead a tribute to the strength and nerves of Lendl, who saved one match point in the fourth set and was just too strong off the ground in the fifth, winning it 6-2

"He put too much pressure on me in the fifth," acknowledged Clerc afterwards "I think I needed more luck today"

The current streak has landed him—permanently, one suspects—in the upper echelons of the tennis world. Having already gorged himself on the clay courts in Europe, Clerc is ready to feast once again on the American summer tournaments

With his lanky 6'1", 175-pound frame, Clerc has the perfect build for the rigours of clay court tennis His long legs carry him around the court with fluid ease, while his upper body strength is revered on the tour He does not look like a weightlifter, but evidence of the power in his torso is supplied by the manner in which he can blast his vicious topspin strokes (off both wings) all day long

Looking to compliment a tennis player on his performance? The optimum phrase is "Jose Clerc."



Guillermo Vilas a bitter rival

CALCUTTA LEAGUE

Mohun Bagan remain unbeaten for four years

Mohun Bagan notched up their 90th successive league victory, while Mohammedan Sporting went another step closer to the coveted league championship with victories over Kumartuli and Kalighat. SHUBHASH SARCAR and SARAJIT DEB report.

MOHAMMEDAN S.C: The home team's 23rd encounter against Kumartuli saw Manash Bhattacharya netting two consecutive goals in their 3-1 triumph. This feat placed him on pari with East Bengal's Jamshid Nasirri as top scorer thus far, with 14 goals each Incidentally, when Manash donned Mohun Bagan colours in 1979 he and Shabbir Ali finished as joint top scorers that season One hopes that Manash will not have to share the honour again However, it is likely that he could outdo Nasirri as he still has three matches left

Mohammedan S.C. should have been up by two goals before Manash drew first blood in the 12th minute. Striker Nirmal Chatterjee wasted a very easy chance from close range off a Kartick Seth pass. The pressure by the giants reduced the Kumartuli defence to shambles.

Even the goalkeeper seemed shaky and lacked the necessary grit though in the initial stages he dived to fist away brilliantly a rasping shot from Kartick Seth. "My custodian Pradip Pramanik has to acquire experience in the senior ranks. In fact, this is only his second match in the senior division", said the Kumartuli coach Amrita Chakraborty

The first goal was not the fault of the goalkeeper as both stoppers were entirely to blame Manash was lying handy and unmarked, so when Nirmal's shot off a Denis Williamson centre rebounded off a defender, Manash booted home. "That goal was the fault of my stopper backs. The goalkeeper cannot be blamed," said the coach, adding, "But Pramanik was to blame for the next two goals. He proved himself incapable of holding onto the ball tightly."

This was true. When the goalkeeper failed to clutch onto the ball off a header from Uttam Mazumdar, Manash did the damage, forcing the ball in. The story was more or less the the same in the third goal, except that Kartick Seth, who had been playing well combining admirably with Manash, stretched to the maximum to head in dangerously. Had he missed he would have hurt himself badly. However, the home team's final goal came off a Denis back volley—the only thing he did right in the entire match. His performance was exasperating.

The way Mohammedan S.C. attacked, they should have been up by several more goals except that they were either erratic or hesitant. But on three occasions Kumartuli entered the danger zone, while Ashok Pal was the striker who gave the opposition some trouble. He reduced the margin off a Subhasis Chakraborty centre late in the second half. "We conceded the goal due to a lapse by both Moidul and Ramen," said Abdus Sattar, adding "it is pointless to say how we performed. The goals indicate this though we missed several chances. In fact, Kumartuli were no match for us".

ALTHOUGH they looked extremely tensed when they took the field against Kalighat, the Mohammedan Sporting team looked a happy side when they came off They were another step closer to the League title, having scored twice Just two more wins—against Behala Youth and Rajasthan—will assure them of the top honours for 1981 The black-and-white team's supporters were on tenterhooks as the game remained barren in the first half. Added to this were sticky ground conditions and missed chances. However, they were able to strike form after the breather and they netted their two goals within five minutes Medios Prasanta Banerjee and Uttam Mazumdar were instrumental in the scoring of both.

Prasanta made an attempt through Manash Bhattacharya when he passed to the speedy winger who shot but Kalighat custodian Bijon Chakraborty was only able to touch it and striker Kartick Seth made no mistake. A couple of minutes later, Uttam Mazumdar gave Tapan Das a good pass. The latter penetrated the defence and beat the goalkeeper. After this, the linkmen and the forwards tried their best to allow Manash to score and clinch the honour of the season's top-scorer but their efforts proved in vain.

MOHUN BAGAN: In the penultimate match of the League, the home team convincingly beat Salkia Friends by a 3-0 margin. It was the same Salkia team that had held Mohammedan Sporting, a few days previously—to a



Mohammedan S C versus Kalighat

goalless draw. In heavy ground conditions, Mohun Bagan started attacking right from the word go and scored two goals before the change of ends.

The first was from a header by Sujas Bera from a corner by Surajit Sengupta. Surajit's floater was headed by a Salkia defender and the ball went to Sujas, who sent the ball home with a powerful nod. The second goal was a treat to watch. Mohun Bagan were awarded a free kick outside the penal ty box. Surajit went to take the kick and saw that the goalkeeper was standing at the far post He swerved the ball beautifully past the wall of defenders and the ball curved in, giv ing the custodian no chance at all.

After the change of ends, it was Salkia Friends who held sway Their players combined well and were on the lookout for goals. The most dangerous forward was Shibabrata Nath, a former Mohun Bagan player, who managed by sheer speed to put the Mohun Bagan defence on the wrong foot on several occasions.

He was ably assisted by fellow striker, Partha Dey, who sometimes fell back to assist the half line. Mohun Bagan made a substitution when they brought in Ashok Chakravarty in place of Shyam Thapa late in the match



JAYANTA SETT

Manash Bhattacharya (20) lying on the ground after scoring a goal against Kumartuli

Subrata Bhattacharya moved up to play as a forward and was rewarded for his efforts when he scored a goal in the last minute of the match He got a loose ball and dashed towards the goal He took a shot which was fisted away by the custodian, but Subrata did not make any mistake on the rebound

The Salkia Friends coach, Ashok Nag said "The ground conditions were very bad It was too heavy and my players were bogged down My medios could not play their normal game, mainly because of the ground condi

Dipak Banerjee of Mohun Bagan scoring the third goal against George Telegraph



JAYANTA SETT



Maidan musings

THERE was joy all around after Mohun Bagan defeated George Telegraph in their last match of the League. If a casual visitor had entered the tent, he would have felt that the supporters were celebrating a major victory. They might not have won the League title (at least till then) but they surely had recorded a rare feat. They have remained unbeaten for the last four years, from 1978. The last time they lost in the League was midway through the tournament in 1977.

This year the police controlling the gates had been quite strict and had not allowed flags of the respective clubs to be flown on the stands. Naturally, one was a bit surprised to witness a huge flag on the northern stands (behind one of the goalposts).

After the final whistle, spectators gave the players a standing ovation as they left the field on their way to the tent. Supporters who were close by hugged the players, not at all bothered by the fact that the players were spattered with mud all over Some of the officials present were also showered with congratulations.

The general secretary of the club, Dhiren Dey, is a peculiar man. He does not watch his team till he is sure that nothing can go wrong or till the team is leading by a comfortable margin. People close to the general secretary say that he does this because he cannot bear tension. Others, however, say that he knows he is unlucky and that is the main reason for his strange behaviour.

Lucky or not, the secretary was more or less the centre of attraction after the team entered the tent. A member who was nearby and was watching the proceedings was talking to another member. "This is what you call luck. We have not won the League and our chances are very thin, but look at the adulation the officials—especially Dhiren Dey—are receiving. I can bet that if the result had not been favourable, he (Dhiren Dey) would not have been here because that is generally the case. People forget so easily—that fellow was born lucky."



JAYANTA SETT

Jamshid Nassiri and a Bata player in an aerial battle

While all this was going on, the supporters who had brought the flag mentioned earlier were entering the tent, through the main gate, in a procession, the flag held high On hearing the cheering, some of the players came out to see what was happening. The people with the flag entered the tent, and according to the custom, presented the flag to the captain

Slowly, the supporters began to file away from the tent and while this correspondent was also on the point of leaving a spectator summed up the real reason for this celebration. "All this is because we beat East Bengal. Even if we had won the League today, but had lost to East Bengal, we would not have been so happy. Our main fight is against East Bengal and we are not at all sad that Mohammedan Sporting are poised to take the League We have nothing against them After all it is 14 long years since they last won the title. And if they drop two points and we win the League we will have more reason to be happy. We are all the more happy because East Bengal is nowhere near the title. Added to all this is, of course, the fact that we have remained unbeaten for the last few years."

THE Iranians, Majid Basker, Jamshid Nasirri and Mehmood Khabazi are back in the city. One might tend to think that we are trying to pull a fast one, but it is true that, for all practical purposes, they were missing for a certain period. The logical question is: how did all this come about?

To go back to the root of the matter, one has to travel back to the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal clash. After the match, the East Bengal coach, Santo Mitra, and the three Iranians charged each other with callousness (reported at length in the issue of *Sportsworld* dated August 12). While all this was snowballing, the three players wanted leave from the club because they wanted to celebrate their festival (Id) When they were told that they would be needed to play for the team, they said that if Fareed (also a Muslim) could be granted leave, so could they.

In the midst of all this, two Iranians left the city, without permission, it is alleged The club officials suddenly decided that the Iranians must vacate the flat in which they have been staying but the Iranians were not to be found and it is reported that with the help of an important official of the club, the third Iranian also left the city.

Immediately after it was known that the three Iranians had left the city, speculation was rife as to whether they would play for the club or not The secretary was confident that everything would be all right because, as he said "They just cannot stop playing. We have got everything tied up and they will face a lot of trouble if they want to create any hassles." At the same time he kept insisting that they must leave their flat and that another flat would be provided for them in more or less the same locality as the other out-station players.

After the Iranians came back, they went to their "old" flat and not the new one which has been prepared for them The club officials are naturally sore and keep insisting that since the flat is in their (club) name, they can vacate it when they wish. But the Iranians are not leaving While this stalemate continues, the Iranians keep playing for the team!

tions and this somehow crippled my team. About the goals—the first two happened even before the goalkeeper could settle down. He could have saved those had he been in position."

THE home team achieved a rare feat in their last match of the current League. They have remained unbeaten in the last 90 matches. The last time they lost a League tie was in 1977 against East Bengal After that defeat they had won the remaining matches that year In 1978 and 1979 they were unbeaten champions and last year, before the League was called off, they had remained unbeaten

Whether they will become the champions or not this year is very difficult to predict at this stage because Mohammedan Sporting, who are leading by a point have still to play a few more matches and only if they drop two points will Mohun Bagan win the title Till Mohammedan Sporting completes their engagements, the Mohun Bagan supporters will have to keep their figers crossed

Coming to the match against George Telegraph, one can say with conviction that Mohun Bagan definitely deserved the 4 0 margin of victory Just before the commencement of the match there was a downpour which made the ground very sticky and made it difficult to play because of the heavy underfoot conditions

Mohun Bagan started in whirlwind fashion and shot into the lead in the third minute of the match, through a suicidal goal Surajit Sengupta got a ball and after getting the better of a defender ran down the right flank and centred from near the touch line Arup Das who was lying handy, took a shot but before it could reach the goal it deflected off Dilip Sarkar's boot and went in

The second was from a perfect piece of understanding Gautam Sarkar got a ball in the midfield and after interchanging with Surajit, passed it to Shyam Thapa, who after playing one-two with Arup Das, sent the last named a forward pass and Arup made no mistake from close Just after the goal, Surajit left the field with an injury and was replaced by Dipak Banerjee Luck was on Dipak's side as the ball touched his head from a Ulaganathan centre and deflected into the goal After the change of ends, Mohun Bagan added one more to their tally, again a lucky goal for Dipak Ulaga took a shot at the goal from close and perhaps it would have entered the net but Dipak took no chances and pushed the ball further in

George Telegraph coach Sunil Nandy said "Three of the four goals were suicidal If my custodian had been in position, the third and fourth goals would not have come off Of course, the second goal was a gem, because there was a combined move which showed good understanding The ground conditions were very heavy but that worked against both sides I must say that Mohun Bagan played very well today " Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee seemed very happy "After some of my players were called for the camp, I was naturally worried as to how the team would play But I am really glad that these players have adjusted so well Sometimes they even played better than my first team "



A Bata defender foils a Jamshid Nassiri attempt to score

EAST BENGAL: After a fortnight, the Iranians were back in action Not that their presence made much of a difference as far as the performance of the team was concerned In an indirect way they made their presence felt because it was from the passes of Jamshid Nasiri that all three goals were scored against Bata The goals came in the first half and, naturally, the players took it lightly after the breather and could not add any more to their tally

After missing a few chances, East Bengal opened their account in the 12th minute of the game, through Somenath Banerjee A combined movement by Majid and Jamshid saw the latter passing the ball to Somenath who placed in from close Samaresh Choudhury utilised an angular pass from Jamshid and with a rising shot from the top of the box scored the second goal for his side Somenath completed the tally when he sent in a powerful shot which dipped in after he had received a pass from Jamshid

The Bata side failed to put up a fight, except for their custodian, Indranath Paul, who saved the situation on many a occasion Though they tried to create some raids, none were very constructive and were usually stopped in midfield by the East Bengal defenders On the other hand, the East Bengal players missed quite a few chances, Jamshid being the worst offender Jamshid, along with Manash Bhattacharya of Mohammedan Sporting, currently heads the goal getters tally with 14 goals and if he had been able to convert a goal or two against Bata, he would have been on the top

The month in pictures

Photographs by AP



Pele at a different kickoff—this time of a film entitled "Victory"—in which he has co-starred with Sylvester Stallone(left) and Michael Caine (right)

Surrey Captain Roger Knight is sent sprawling by Somerset captain Brian Rose(left) in an attempted run-out at Lord's during the Benson and Hedges Cup final







Reproductions of two of the posters heralding the 1982 World Cup soccer tournament scheduled to take place in Spain next year. They will be flashed on the walls of two of the fourteen stadium cities—Elche and Virgo



Michael Spinks throws up his arms in jubilation after capturing the World Boxing Association light heavyweight title with a 15-round decision over Eddie Mustafa Muhammad

News round-up

Goan football transfers

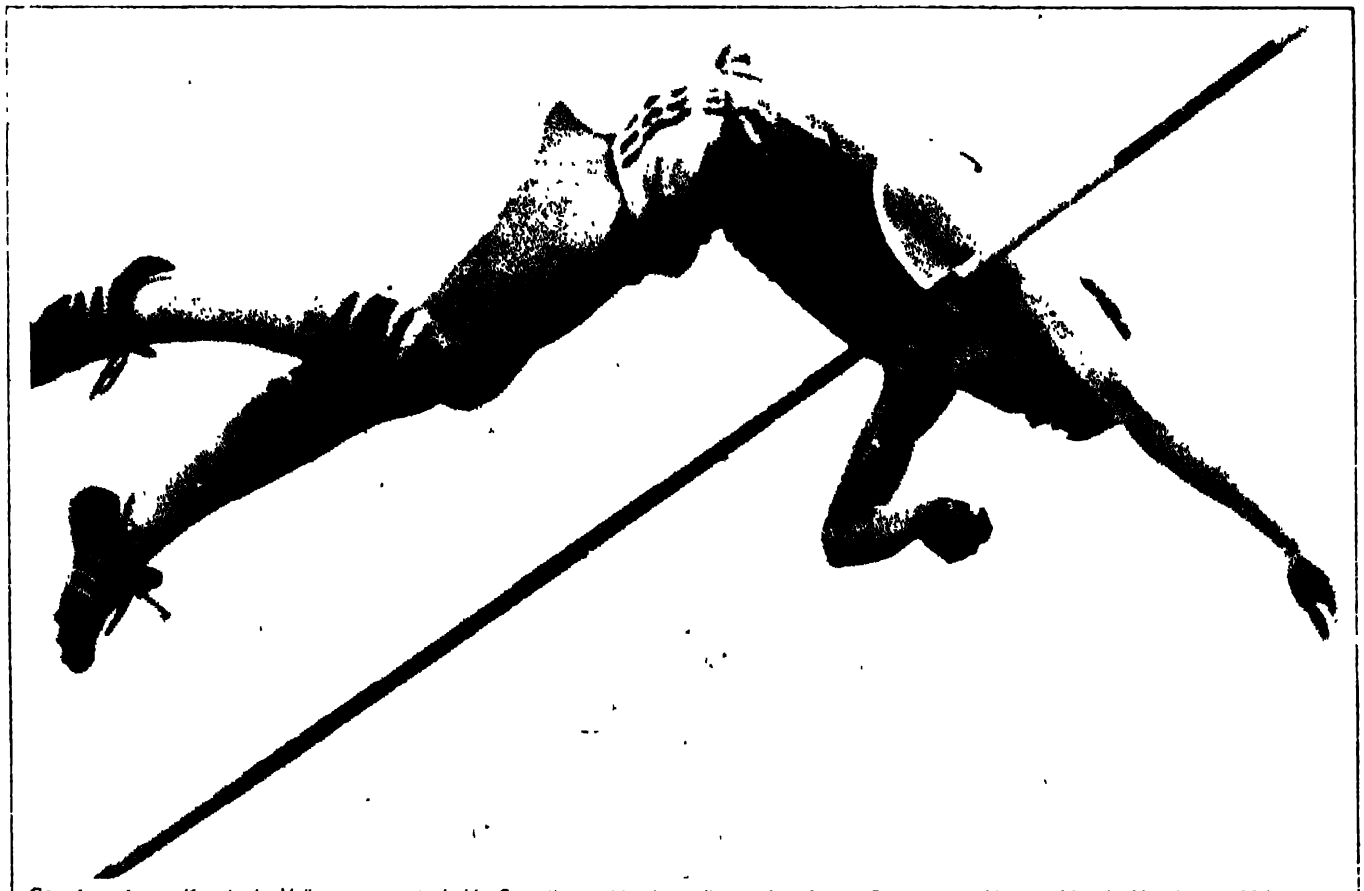
PANAJI: Some notable transfers have taken place for the 1981-82 football season in Goa. The major gains have been made by the league champions Dempo who have acquired the services of such reputed players as Jose Fernandes of Vasco, Prakash Naik of Sesa and Valente Fernandes of Salgaocar. The speedy and dashing winger Camilo Gonsalves of the last mentioned has also had the intention of joining Dempo, but as he has to clear the dues with Salgaocar his transfer has not been cleared Others who have joined the ranks of Dempo are Leocald Machado, younger brother of East Bengal's Joseph Machado, Francis (both of Sesa) and Norbert of Vasco.

Besides Jose and Norbert, Vasco has also lost the services of stopper Vassu Chodankar and Medio Augustino. Both Vassu and Augustino have signed for Sesa Vassu in fact was with Sesa before joining Vasco in 1976 Sesa's main problem lies in the goal and ridiculously enough one found all the four goalkeepers, Diego, Irunen, Remedios and Francis keeping the goal for them one time or the other during the season. This means that either something is physically wrong with them or none of them is competent enough to be relied upon.

Gone are the days when Sesa used to score heavily through such brilliant forwards as Albino Fernandes and Visitacao Tobo who were ably assisted by Ernest Braganza and Maurice Pinto Sesa at present do have speedy and dashing forwards with them but their finishing has been very poor For the last four seasons Prakash was their main striker. This hard working forward who has played for India has scored several beautiful goals for them, but at the same time has missed countless easy chances Gokuldas Nagvenkar and Francis Rodriguez are the other two erratic Sesa forwards Gokuldas is perhaps the speediest forward in Goa but he is certainly not one of the brainy players.

Pint sized Jose Fernandes who joined Vasco in 1974 received the Jivbadada Kerkar award for his meritorious service to Goan football last year This tenacious forward who does not hesitate to tackle any robust defender is an opportunistic scorer like Francis D'Souza and Dempo may gain a lot from his inclusion. Dempo's another gain Valente, who netted Goa's match winner against Bengal in the quarter-final league match of the last National Championship at Cuttack, is clever a linkman. However, Salgaocar's coach Shammugham told this correspondent that though they had lost Valente and might even lose Camilo they were resourceful enough to make a good showing during the forthcoming season

Salgaocar were undoubtedly the best side of the last season and were very impressive when they won the All-India Bandodkar Gold Trophy tournament. But they were unfortunate to be without the services of Brahmanand, Camilo, Arnold and Bento Andrew in the crucial Senior Division league final against Dempo. Salgaocar, a disjointed lot, lost to Dempo by three goals to one They were beaten, but certainly not disgraced as they fought valiantly to save the match. The first two goals which they conceded were their goalkeeper's gifts to Dempo Two down at the breather, Salgaocar resumed play in the second half with a do-or-die spirit and their attackers caused much trouble for the Dempo defenders during the first ten minutes They were rewarded with a goal, but were unlucky to miss two good



Soviet sportsman Konstantin Volkov who exceeded by 3 cm the world pole vault record on August 3 in a competition in Irkutsk He cleared 584 cm

scoring chances during this short spell of ascendancy. Salgaocar suffered a lone defeat in the league as against two by Dempo, but the loss against the latter ultimately cost them the league championship.

Dempo's two defeats were against Vasco in the first leg (1-3) and against Sesa in the second leg (0-2). Sesa made a bad showing in the first leg and were beaten by MPT, Vasco and Salgaocar. But they were a vastly improved side in the second leg in which they remained unbeaten Vasco, on the other hand, fared well in the first leg but performed poorly in the second to lose to Siridao, Salgaocar, Dempo and Sesa In the final analysis Dempo had 30 points from 18 matches, Salgaocar 29, Sesa 27 and Vasco 25.

The Bandodkar Gold Trophy tournament failed to attract any outstation team of high standing. The local sides dominated the scene and in the end Salgaocar trounced Vasco 3-0 to emerge the champions for the first time Salgaocar had lost to Leaders' Club, Jullundur, in the final of the inaugural year in 1969 and had also lost the 1979 final to Sesa While Salgaocar reached the final with a hard earned-win over Bokaro Steel Plant, Vasco gained an easy entry into the final at the cost of Goa Under-23 who had taken Sesa, the winners of the last two years, in their strides in the quarter final Dempo failed to quality for the quarter-final and were thrashed 6-1 Vasco by in a pre-quarter-final match

A CORRESPONDENT

AP Sports festival

ELURU: Hyderabad district team won the Rajaram Memorial Rolling Silver Trophy, installed in memory of the Finance and Sports Minister and president of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council, who died in a car accident recently The four-day inaugural festival was held under the auspices of the AP Sports Council and hosted by the West Godavari District Sports Council at Eluru About 2,300 men and women athletes from 23 districts participated in six disciplines—athletics, basketball, soccer, hockey, volleyball and kabaddi for men along with athletics and volleyball (women)

The organisers were given the privilege of playing host to the festival—the first of its kind in the annals of Andhra Pradesh sport—and they had done their best, in spite of inclement weather and other difficulties, to provide ideal conditions for all disciplines Enthusiastic fans thronged the venues to whet their appetite, and thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings

Pramila Ramakrishnaiah of Hyderabad district stole top honours She hurled the discus to 37 5 metres, eclipsing the State mark of 35.75 metres and the Universities women's record of 37.1 metres to become the only participant to achieve this feat. She was also a member of the victorious 4×100m relay quartet. Nalini Rajarathnam, also of Hyderabad district, had the distinction of winning a triple crown She proved to be the fastest woman of the meet winning the 100m sprint in 13.4 sec, annexed the 400 m title in 1:02.3 sec and did her bit in the relay.

Both Pramila and Nalini were among the Asiad probables who underwent rigorous training at the recent women athletics coaching camp at Hyderabad That the training did benefit both girls immensely was evident from their achievements



D Prameela Ramakrishnayya Lakshmi Rajyam and R Vijaya Lakshmi Krishna who got the first three places in the discus throw in the A P sports festival

Slim K Lucy Pramila of Eluru won the high jump gold Bendetta of Visakhapatnam secured first place in the long jump, while Jayalaxmi of Guntur wrested the top honours in shot putt

In the men's section, Rami Reddy of Visakhapatnam ran the 100 metres dash in 11 1 sec to win the gold S Raju of West Godavari, an Asiad probable at the Patiala camp, clinched the 400 m title in 53 9 sec His team-mate Babu Banerjee won the 800 m Sambaiah of Nizamabad secured first place in 1,500 metres. The other winners were Sunil Kumar of Ranagareddy (high jump), Anwar Ali of Anantapur (long jump), Edukondallu of Guntur (shot putt) and Edukondallu from East Godavari (discus) Visakhapatnam district claimed the 4×100 m relay gold.

Visakhapatnam men and Hyderabad women grabbed the athletics team championships, with 21 and 27 points respectively.

Hyderabad men also won the basketball and volleyball events while their counterparts in the women's section claimed the volleyball title. Visakhapatnam obtained the soccer title, and the hockey and kabaddi titles were claimed by Modak and Guntur respectively

The idea behind this sports festival to take sports and games to the rural areas. The meet proved that there is no dearth of talent and enthusiasm in the rural areas

MUKRAM

Foreign exchange problem

NEW DELHI: At least for India, the meeting of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) at Manila on August 2 was far from being a routine one Hosts of the ABC Championships coming November in Calcutta, India had given their representative at Manila, duties which were far from a routine nature Our man there was Raj Kumar Kaushik, vice-president of ABC and chairman of its technical committee.

Finances are the main worry of the Basketball Federation of India(BFI), and Mr Kaushik was given the task to find ways of saving what money he could, especially foreign exchange

Back home from the Philippines, Mr Kaushik should have reason to be pleased with himself He persuaded the ABC executive members to reduce the duration of the coming Calcutta championships from 15 to nine days Calculating hotel and other costs, this cut alone is estimated to save the BFI about Rs 10 lakhs According to ABC stipulations, the organisers are committed to host visiting teams from four days before the start of the tournament till two days after the end But at Calcutta, teams should be reaching only two days before the start of the competitions The ABC Championships begin at Calcutta on November 12

Organisers are also supposed to pay 20 per cent of the air passage cost of the teams Here foreign exchange worth Rs 8 lakhs was posing a hurdle Mr Kaushik is understood to have persuaded ABC members to agree to payment in rupees

Fact is, till the time of writing the Government had not given the BFI a formal green signal to go ahead with the ABC Championships Foreign Exchange is one of the chief factors considered when such governmental approvals are accorded With this hurdle removed, the Finance Ministry should have no objection in giving the nod

A CORRESPONDENT

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

As the Derbyshire pair Bob Taylor and Geoff Miller staged their vital seventh-wicket stand of 139 in the fifth Test of the 1979 series against Australia in Adelaide, they broke a 54-year-old recorded set by two legendary English batsmen but narrowly missed breaking a record shared by another legendary figure. The Taylor-Miller partnership, which came after England had lost 132 for six wickets in their second innings, eclipsed the previous best seventh wicket stand by England at the Adelaide Oval 117 established during the third Test of the 1924-25 series.

That exciting Test, which Australia won in a dramatic finish by 11 runs, was the third successive match of the 1924-25 series to enter the seventh day. Australia batted first and lost their first six wickets for 119 but the last four wickets put on 370 as the English attack became seriously weakened by injuries. Maurice Tate was forced out of action with a raw big toe, Arthur Gilligan with a groin strain and A. P. 'Tich' Freeman with an injured wrist from a fierce Jack Ryder drive.

After dismissing England for 365, Australia by the end of the fourth day were 211 for three wickets, 335 ahead – but rain on the fifth morning presented England with a wicket eminently suited to her great left-arm bowlers Frank Woolley and Roy Kilner – and seven wickets fell for 89. Kilner took 4-51, following his 4-127 in Australia's first innings, and Woolley 4-77.

Newspaper reports at that time told of the delirious excitement that marked the finish of the greatest Test Adelaide had ever witnessed. One account said: "Dead silence prevailed before each ball left the bowler's hand, deafening applause greeted a run or a sibilant intake of thousands of breaths when a batsman missed. Gradually Freeman and Gilligan reduced the leeway. From needing 27 for victory the deficit came down to 18.

"Then Gilligan (31) pushed one from Gregory into Vic Richardson's hands at mid-off. Richardson held the ball and the crowd went mad. The applause rang out from stand and mound alike for several minutes and then Strudwick emerged.

"Truly Australian in its impartiality, the vast concourse cheered the little keeper to the echo, then settled down to watch the final stages of the great finish.

"Six more runs came, only 12 wanted. Amid a breathless hush Mailey took the ball at the northern end. Not a sound could be heard as he took his run and sent the ball down slowly and apparently innocently but with all a deadly delivery that broke inches from the leg. Freeman missed it and the end was not yet.

"Once more the bosie bowler started his run. Apparently the same ball went down and Freeman moved across to it. There was a snick and the ball rested in Oldfield's gloves. "How's that?" went a combined shout from the field. It was the end. Freeman had been caught and Australia had won a most sensational game by 11 runs. The seven days fight had finished. Australia had won the third Test and the Ashes once more remain in Australia."

The partnership record of 117 broken by Miller and Taylor – reviving memories of this drama of 1925 – was established in England's first innings of the historic match. Gilligan re-arranged his batting order so that his customary openers found themselves batting at Nos. 5 and 6 and another of England's greatest bats came in at No. 8.

The record of 117 for the seventh wicket by England at Adelaide Oval was set by two of these three players, one of whom made 119, the other 92.

Question 1 Who where they?

The partnership record eluded Miller and Taylor was the 67-year-old record for a seventh-wicket stand against Australia established in the fifth Test of the 1911-12 series, in Sydney.

In that match, won by England by 70 runs – 324 and 214 to 176 and 292 – a celebrated left-hander top-scored with 133 not out in England's first innings. Batting at No. 7, he saved the innings, sharing the record seventh-wicket stand of 143 with Joe Vine.

Question 2 Who was Vine's partner in the stand that remains a record?

Invited to bat when Len Hutton won the toss, Australia piled up 601 before declaring and went on to win a Brisbane Test by an innings and 154 runs. Biggest contributors to the Australian total were two left-handers, one of whom made 162, the other 153.

The match was the first Test of the 1954-55 series in Australia. After their disastrous start in Brisbane, England won the next three Tests and drew the fifth.

But in Brisbane they were compelled to follow on after making only 190 in reply to the massive Australian total and in their second innings only Bill Edrich (88) and Peter May (44) offered any prolonged resistance and they were all out for 257. The signs were bright for Australia – but the signs were misleading.

The centuries scored by the left handers, who put on 202 for the third wicket, proved to be the only Australian centuries of the series. In fact, there was not to be another Australian century against England for four years and 11 Tests.

The left-hander who made 153 batted for seven hours, his century taking him past 2,000 runs against England. But subsequently he managed to score only 70 runs in six innings in the series.

The other left-hander batted 380 minutes for his 162 but in his eight other innings of the series he totalled only 192, of which 92 (not out) came in the second innings of the second Test.

Question 3 Who were these left-handers, one of whom was making his final century against England?

This Brisbane match saw the first Test appearance of one great English player and the final appearance against Australia of another – one a batsman, and the other a bowler.

Question 4 Can you name them?

Back to Bob Taylor and Geoff Miller – both of them have now narrowly missed hitting a Test century.

Taylor was 97 when he was caught by 'keeper Kevin Wright off the last ball before lunch, from Rodney Hogg. His previous Test best was 45 against New Zealand in the Christchurch in 1978 but he had made 97 before – for the International Wanderers against a South African Invitation XI at Johannesburg in 1975-76.

Miller had previously got even closer to the 100. He scored 98 not out in a 1977 Test in which he was also associated with Taylor in a match saving seventh-wicket stand – this time for 89.

Question 5 Against what country?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Arthur Gilligan wrote "I have asked over a hundred people this riddle and practically 90 per cent have given Robinson run out. I put the point to two first-class umpires, Frank Chester and Jack Newman, and they replied simultaneously 'Smith is out, caught', and that is the correct answer." *Wisden's* editor added a footnote? "MCC have ruled this as 'caught'"

2 Gilligan wrote "When asked for an immediate decision, many people say 's broken the wicket'. The correct decision is therefore 'bowled – played on'. It is just the same as if the batsman had played the ball on to his foot, whence it rebounds on to his stumps."

3 Herbert Sutcliffe whose first four innings against Australia in the 1924-25 series were 59, 115, 176 and 127.

4 Clarrie Grimmett, who took 5/45 and 6/37 in the fifth Test, 1924-25 in Sydney.

5 Maurice Tate.

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

In what sports or games are the following trophies contested for?

1 Ryder Cup
2 Wightman Cup
3 Melbourne Cup
4 Stanley Cup
5 Ascot Gold Cup
6 Drysdale Cup
7 Currie Cup
8. Uber Cup
9 Rahim Jivraj Cup
10 Wimbledon Trophy

ANSWERS

1 Golf, 2 Lawn tennis, 3 Horse racing, 4 Ice hockey, 5 Horse racing, 6 Squash rackets, 7 Cricket, 8 Badminton, 9 Field hockey, 10 Rifle shooting (Service Calibre)

Question box

Ashim Kumar Sarkar, Dibrugarh.
Q. What was the batting and bowling records of Jeremy Coney of New Zealand Test series, 1973-74?
A. Coney made 81 runs in 4 innings of 2 Tests @ 20 25 with 45 as his highest score

Anand Bihari Lal, Bihar.
Q. What is the highest individual score in Ranji Trophy and by whom was it established?
A. 443 n o by B B Nimbalkar of Maharashtra in their match against Kathiawar at Poona in 1948-49

Ladu Kishore Ramchandala, Vishakhapatnam
Q. Is there any instance of a batsman hitting a six and getting out hit-wicket at the same time? Even if he is out, will the 'six' be credited to his account?
A. Not recorded so far If a batsman hits a six and before the ball goes out of the boundary, the batsman hits the stump, his six will not be counted
Q. If a bowler gets two wickets with the last two balls of an over and then claims another wicket with the very first ball of his next over, is it a hat-trick?
A. Yes, it is

Prabhat Guha, Balijan
Q. What were the scores of Vivian Richards in the 1975-76 Test series against India in West Indies?
A. 142 at Bridgetown, 130 and 20 at Port of Spain, 177 and 23 at Port of Spain and 64 at Kingston

Sudhanya Mukherjee, Rourkela.
Q. Who are the batsmen to make triple centuries in Tests?
A. G S Sobers of West Indies (365 n o.), L Hutton of England (364), Hanif Mohammad of Pakistan (337), W R Hammond of England (336 n o), D G Bradman of Australia (334 and 304), A Sandham of England (325), R B Simpson of Australia (311), J H Edrich of England (310 n o), R. M Cowper of Australia (307) and L G Rowe of West Indies (302)

N. S R. Parthasarathy, Hyderabad
Q. How many Tests centuries have been scored by I M Chappell?
A. I M Chappell of Australia has scored 14 Test centuries
Prakash Malpani, Jorhat.
Q Would you please give me the names of the XI who played for Bombay against Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy final in 1970-71? What were the scores in four innings of the final?
A. Bombay scored 287 and 196 and Maharashtra replied with 230 and 205 S S Naik, R D Parkar, V H Bhosle, M R Sampat, A D Naik, M D Rege, A M Pai S K Hazare, P K Shivalkar, A M Mehta and A A Ismail played for Bombay and C P S Chauhan M S Gupte, H S Kanitkar, S M Kabadi, C G Borde, S T Kirtane, N F Saldanha V N Joshi, S N Mehol, A Khan and Anwar Shaikh represented Maharashtra in the final
Nirmal Kumar Lakham, Jaipur, Partha Das Gupta, Calcutta
Q. What is the Test record of S G Barnes of Australia? How was he dismissed in his first Test?
A S G Barnes played in 13 Tests for Australia in which he made 1072 runs @ 63 05 with 3 centuries He was bowled by W E Bowes in his first Test appearance against England at The Oval in 1938
K Hemchand, V V Prasad, A Revappa, Hyderabad
Q Can you give the names of the West Indies bowlers whom Gavaskar has faced?
A V A Holder G C Shillingford G S Sobers, J M Noreiga, A G Barett, C A Davis C H Lloyd K D Boyce L R Gibbs, M C Carew, R C Fredericks, U G Dowe, J N Shepherd Inshan Ali, M L C Foster, P B Kanhai, D A J Holford, A M E Roberts, B D Julien, I V A Richards M A Holding P R Jumadeen, W W Daniel A Padmore, Imtiaz Ali, N Phillip S T Clarke, D Parry A L Kallicharran H A Gomes M D Marshall S Shivnarine
Pradeep Shreshtha, Kathmandu
Q What is Don Bradman's Test career record?
A Tests 52 Innings 80, Not out 10, Total runs 6996 Highest score 334 Average 99 94 100's 29, 50's 13 0's 7 Catches 32

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 112

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Quammar Mohammed, Bhadrak.
Q. Where and when did Mushtaq Mohammad make his Test debut and what is his Test record?
A. In the third Test vs West Indies at Lahore in 1958-59 and in 57 Tests since then he has scored 3643 runs with the help of 10 centuries He has also captured 79 wickets conceding 2307 runs
Q What is the rule governing follow-on?
A. The side which bats first and leads by 200 runs in a match of 5 days or more, by 150 runs in a three-day or four-day match, by 100 runs in a two-day match or by 75 runs in a one-day match, shall have the option of requiring the other side to follow their innings

Miss Abanti Banick, Cuttack.
Q Who was the first Indian to score a century in each innings?
A. Vijay Hazare scored 116 and 145 against Australia at Adelaide in 1947-48

Mona, Madras
Q. What is the difference between stumped and run out?
A. Wicket-keeper stumps a batsman when the batsman while making a stroke is found out of his crease Run out is made by any fieldsman while attempting to steal a run

Rajinder Sharma, Narayan Sharma, Maithon Dam
Q. What was the age of Lance Gibbs when he began his career? What is the best bowling figure by him?
A 23 years 8 for 38 vs India at Bridgetown in 1961-62 is his best bowling analysis in 79 Test appearances for West Indies

Ashok K. Gupta, Chanpatia
Q What is the bowling record by Yograj Singh and Sunil Valson in first-class cricket?
A Yograj has captured 41 wickets for 1142 runs in 19 first-class matches as on 11 5 1981, while Sunil Valson has captured 57 wickets for 1186 runs in 20 matches as on 1 5 1980

G Rajinder, Bhongir
Q Who topped the batting averages for India against West Indies in West Indies in 1970-71?
A Sunil Gavaskar who averaged 154 80 in 8 innings (3 n o) of 4 Tests

Sailendra Sharma, Tangla.
Q What does the term 'nightwatchman in cricket mean?
A Nightwatchman is a non-regular batsman, who comes in to bat at the fall of the wicket at the fag end of the day, to safeguard the wicket of a regular batsman

A. Jerome.
Q. What is the third wicket partnership record by the Indian pair?
A. 238 by P R Umrigar and V L Manjrekar in the first Test vs New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1955-56

Rajesh, Jullundur
Q. Who topped the Australian bowling averages in the series against West Indies in 1977 78?
A Bruce Yardley, who finished with 15 wickets for 377 @ 25 13 per wicket

Q. How many South African and New Zealand batsmen have hit double centuries?

A. R G Pollock (274 & 209) D J McGlew (255 n o), E A B Rowan (236), A D Nourse, Jr (231 & 208) G A Faulkner (204) and E J Barlow (201) from South Africa and G M Turner (259 and 223 n o), G T Dowling (239) B Sutcliffe (230 n o) and M P Donnelly (206) from New Zealand have hit double centuries

Rakesh, Jullundur

Q. Name the book which gives complete record of first-class cricket

A. Book of Cricket Records by Ray Webber and the same title by Bill Frindall

Mangesh Tendulkar, Pune

Q When, where and against whom did Ray Bright make his Test debut?

A Ray Bright played his first Test for Australia in the second Test vs England at Manchester in 1977

Raj Joshi, Pune

Q When where and against whom did Ken Wadsworth make his Test debut?

A Ken Wadsworth began playing for New Zealand from the first Test vs England at Lord's in 1969

Anil Samant, Pune

Q When, where and against whom did Laird Lillee and Marsh make their Test debut?

A Bruce Laird made his debut in the first Test vs West Indies at Brisbane in 1979-80 Dennis Lillee in the 6th Test vs England at Adelaide in 1970-71 and Rodney Marsh in the 1st Test vs England at Brisbane in 1970-71

D S. Sastry, Paloncha

Q Please confirm that maximum number of centuries hit in a Test match are 8 out of which 5 were scored by Australia and 3 by West Indies at Kingston in 1954-55 Is it a world record?

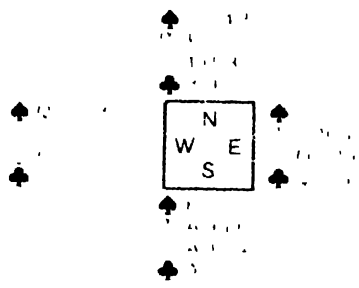
A Only 7 centuries were made in the said Test West Indians hit 2 and not 3 hundreds and the Australians made 5 Seven centuries in a Test is a world record and is achieved twice in Tests

Uday Mukherjee, Gauhati.

Q What is Test batting record of Gopal Bose?

A Unfortunately Gopal Bose could never play in Tests for India

Bridge



Last week's quiz

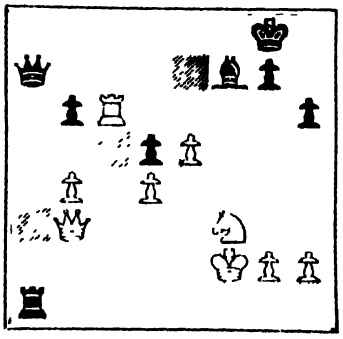
This week's quiz

Chess

Anatoly Karpov, Super System III

1 P - QB4, P - K4,	**2 Kt - QB3, Kt - QB3**
3 P - KKt3, B - B4,	**4 B - Kt2, Kt - B3**
5 Kt - B3, 0 - 0,	**6 0 - 0, P - Q3**
7 P - Q3, B - K3,	**8 P - QR3, P - QR4**
9 P - R3, Q - K2,	**10 R - Kt1, B - B4**
11 B - Kt5	
11 . K - R1,	**12 Kt - Q5, Q - Q1**
13 P - QKt4, P x P,	**14 P x P, B - R2**
15 R - R1, P - R3,	**16 B x Kt, P x B**
17 Q - Q2, K - R2,	**18 Kt - R4, B - K3**
19 B - K4ch, K - Kt2,	**20 P - Kt4, Kt - Q5**
21 K - R2?.	
21 . Kt - Kt6,	**22 Q - Kt2, Kt x R**
23 P - KJ .	
23 P - B3,	**24 Kt - QB3, P - Q4**
25 P x P, P x P,	**26 B - Kt2, P - Q5**
27 Kt - Kt5, Q - Kt3,	**28 Kt x B, Q x Kt**
29 P - B4, QP x P,	**30 P x P, P x P**
31 Q x Pch, K - Kt1,	**32 Kt - Kt6**
32 . KR - Q1??,	**33 Q - R8mate**

Competition G480



White

Solution to No G479 (Mahia - Quinteros, Buenos Aires, 1980) (r1b3k1 1p1r1pPp p1n1p2Q 7B 3bq3 6R1 P1P3PP 5R1K - White to play)

Problem No 1145

G Heathcote

(1B2R3 nK1p4 6p1 rp1k2N1 p6R 3rp3 2Qp4 bn5b - 6 white men, 13 black)

Solution to No 1144 (Howard). (4R3/4b1P1 6QK 1p1r2p1 3pNPP1 RB1k2P1/2Npp3/ 3qn1B1 - mate in two)

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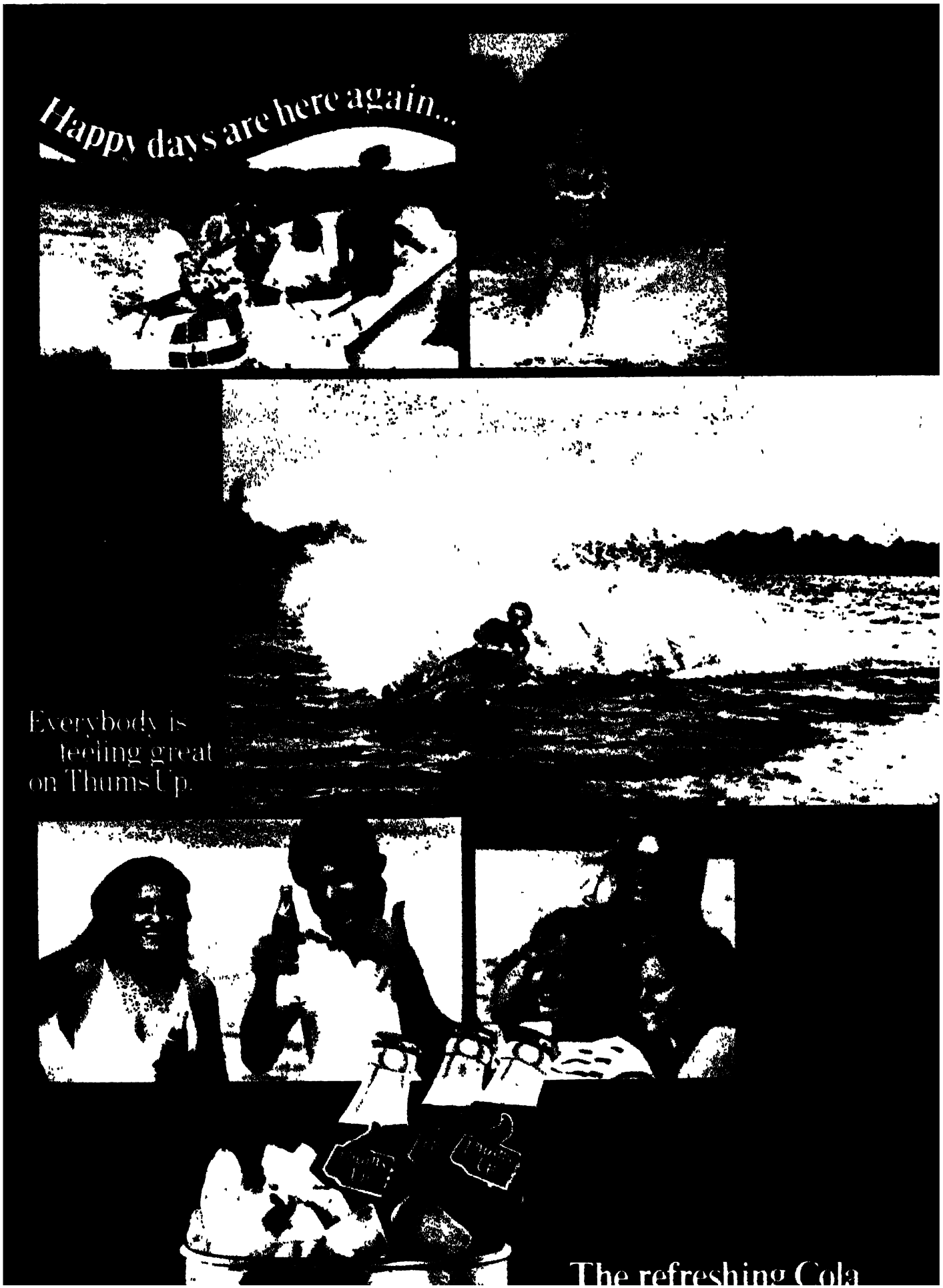
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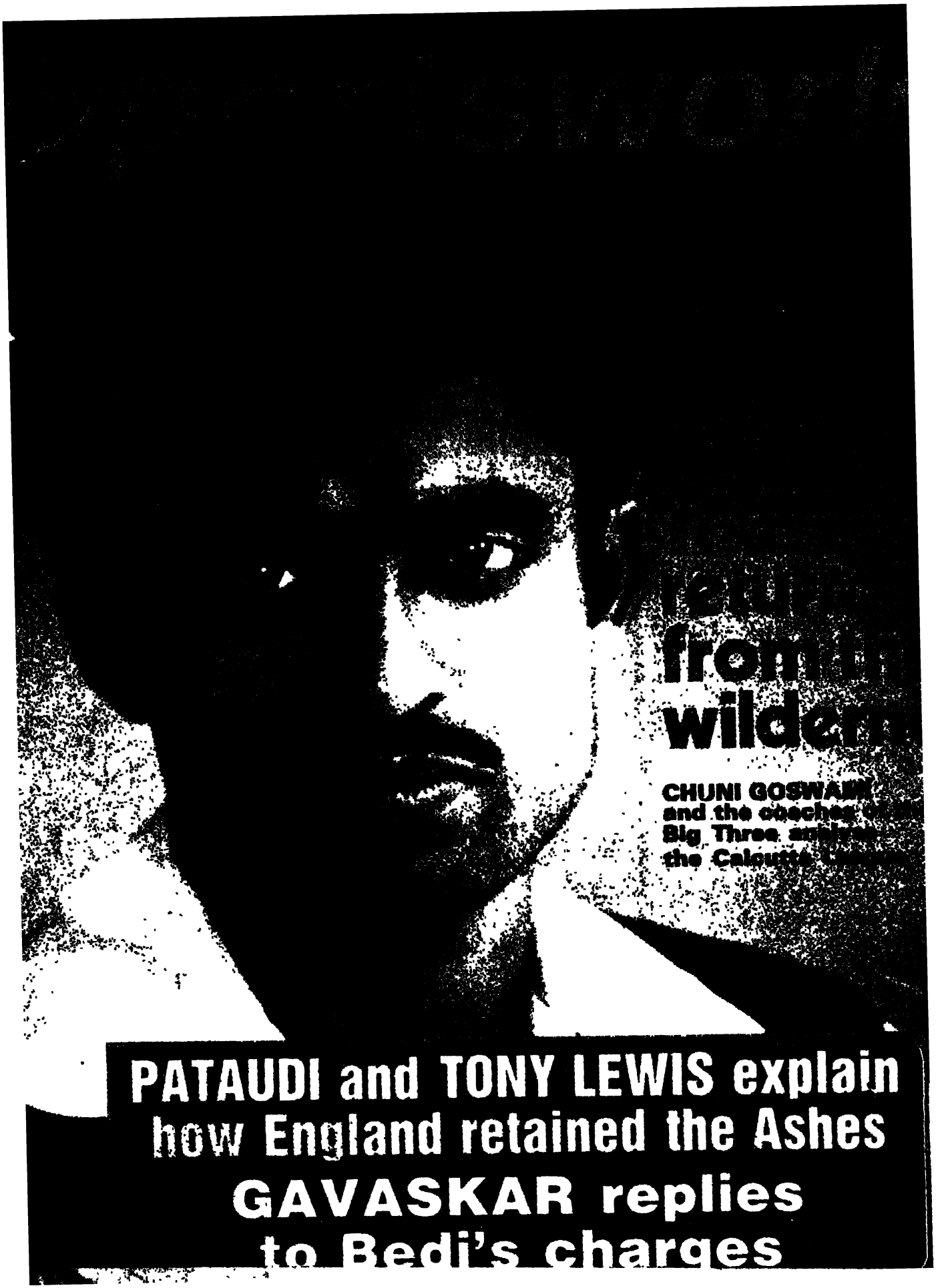
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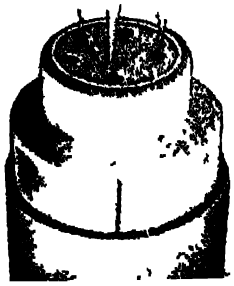


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Letters to the Editor

The greatest?

REGARDING Ashis Ray's article on Kapil Dev, published in the August 12 issue, I would like to point out that instead of being a comparative study of all-rounders, it is a purely descriptive article, contrary to the title. The author should have compared and evaluated the style, records and all other aspects of Kapil Dev with those of previous Indian all-rounders, rather than portraying his cricketing life. I am sure that the comparative discussion would have been more interesting On the whole, there was a great deal of scope to improve the standard of this article.

TANIYA GHOSH, Calcutta

YOUR cover story "Kapil Dev: Is he the best Indian all-rounder ever?" was an exercise in tracing the lion-hearted all-rounder's career. But Ashis Ray did not, quite surprisingly, answer the question.

At present, Kapil cannot be called a complete all-rounder. His batting is not adequate to place him among the great all-rounders of the world He has shown his batting prowess on Indian soil several times, but he has been a frequent failure abroad with the bat. As for his bowling, he falls among the top class bowlers of the world and can justifiably be called the "Dennis Lillee" of India

Many parallels are being drawn between Kapil and Botham. While Botham is far ahead of Kapil, so far as batting is concerned, Kapil has a slight edge over Botham in the department of bowling. To rate Kapil as the best all-rounder in the world would be a premature conclusion. Botham, in fact, is the best all-rounder in the world today

Coming back to the question "Is Kapil the best Indian all-rounder ever?" it is still too early to assess a man who has not yet firmly established his position as an all-rounder in the world cricket Further, Kapil is yet to reach his peak, which he is expected to do in the not too distant future. He has tremendous potential and will surely be ranked one day amongst the great all-rounders of the world Till then, one must consider Vinoo Mankad as the best Indian all-rounder ever.

P.S. MONY, Trivandrum.

ASHIS RAY's article, "Is Kapil India's greatest all-rounder ever?" was nicely written But Kapil has disappointed us with the bat. He must realise that batting by Test standards does not solely mean aggression and hitting He should also learn how to check his temperament and restrict his flamboyance Much more is expected, insofar as batting is concerned, of this dashing and enthralling superstar, who is to date the only Indian batsman to have reached a century with a six. However, Kapil is an excellent bowler. We wish him all success against the Englishmen this winter

GOPAN KRISHNAN, Cochin.

Shame, shame!

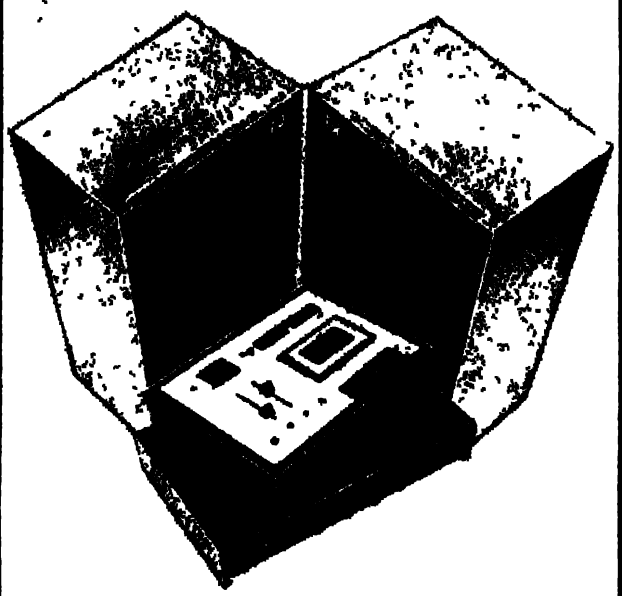
THE gloomy chapter of the Australian cricket team is not yet over. It may be recalled that on our last tour of Australia, Ian Chappell made some uncharitable remarks against the Indian team. Now Australia has suffered defeat at the hands of its traditional rival. But the defeat at Leeds by 18 runs at the hands of England after following on was all the more humiliating. It is also a resounding slap on the face of Ian Chappell, is it not? Come on Chappell, advise the Australian Cricket Board to arrange an Australian tour of Canada, the Fiji Islands or even Bangladesh. I am deliberately not referring to Sri Lanka, because the Lankans, in my mind, are more talented and have a greater fighting spirit than the Australians

SANTOSH BAJAJ, Calcutta.

IT has been a long time since India defeated Australia in the historic Test at Melbourne. India's victory and the joy it generated in

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the mind of every Indian are still fresh. We Indians can never be oblivious of the scornful remarks Ian Chappell made about us This is now our turn to say something about the standard of the Australian cricket team considering their present performance against England In the light of their performances in recent years against India, Pakistan, West Indies, Sri Lanka and now against England, one cannot help but say that the Australians are groggy boxers trying to find their feet against their opponents

In fact, no country can remain at the top in Test cricket for a long time, as the competition is stiff and there is plenty of talent Why then were such arrogant remarks made against the Indians during their last tour of Australia by the great Ian Chappell? Why is the pen of Chappell silent today? Why is no advice to the Australians forthcoming?

PRABHAT SINGH and
TRILOCHAN SINGH,
Jhumri Telaya

Well done!

I EXTEND my heartiest congratulations to Brearley and his men for retaining the Ashes by winning the fifth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester Once again the incredible Botham proved his ability as an all rounder. His belligerent innings of 118 with six sixes and 13 fours shows his calibre as a batsman He hit 22 runs in an over off Dennis Lillee, which included two mighty sixes

The newcomer Paul Allott deserves great praise for his hardhitting 52 not out which helped England score a respectable total in the first innings And what a great fight-back by the Australians in the second innings Trailing by 506 runs the Australians struggled hard to reach the target At one time when Border and Lillee were playing and the score was 365 for 7, it seemed that they could reach the target, but it was Botham again who captured two quick wickets and shattered Australia's hope of winning the match

At the end of the fifth Test we can safely assert that Brearley is one of the best captains in the world today.

ZAYA ARFI,
Patna.

ENGLAND's most ferocious lion, Ian Botham, is roaring. Botham's dramatic return to dazzling form helped England retain the Ashes and he has won three "Man of the Match" awards in a row. This, by itself, must be some kind of a record and he really deserves it

Ever since he shed the burden of captaincy, it has been mainly Australia versus Botham The whole of England is now singing the glory of Botham, who, at present, is the greatest all rounder in the world

Indian fans hope that our Kapil Dev will put up a similar display in the coming winter If he can, the battle between him and Botham—the two foremost all-rounders of today—will be most enthralling Come on Kapil, come on!

VIJAY CHORGHADE,
Pune

ENGLAND convincingly won the series against Australia and is now in an impregnable position though one more Test still remains to be played However, England won the series rather strangely because they had not outplayed Australia in any department of the game In spite of this England won due to the superhuman performance of Ian Botham and shrewd captaincy of Mike Brearley who has returned to the English squad with triumph Botham's resignation was not only a turning point in his career but this also opened up a new avenue for England's success, as England had not won a single Test under Botham's leadership Bob Willis, regaining his old touch and pace, also bowled superbly

From the Australian viewpoint only Terry Alderman performed consistently with his accurate bowling Wood, Dyson, Yallop and Marsh did not perform up to expectations, while skipper Hughes and Border played moderately Lawson and Hogg were bogged down with injury and could not prove their competence The burden of age seems to have affected Lillee, and so he could not play his usual game

R VASUDEVAN,
Tamil Nadu

Just one point

If Bishan does have a grievance, then I am most surprised

SUNIL GAVASKAR, while holidaying in England, spoke to ASHIS RAY to set the record straight about the controversial interview with Bishan Singh Bedi. The interview, which appeared in the issue of *Sportsworld* dated 22 July, was entitled " Did Gavaskar get Bedi axed?" Gavaskar, in the course of this piece, asserts that the comments attributed to Bedi are nothing but the viewpoints of the author

WHEN I first saw the article. I thought *Sportsworld* had started a jokes column But most magazines have no more than a page of humour. So, I thought, this must be a new fiction series.

The intriguing thing about the story is that at no stage has Bishan been comprehensively quoted as having said that I got him axed. In the first paragraph, I noticed the suggestion that Bishan was axed through the sweep of a player-colleague-captain called Sunil Gavaskar, where only the word sweep is within quotes. Who uttered it no one knows.

In anoher passage, Bishan is reported to have said "I do not know myself why this conspiracy was hatched against me," which is within quotes, but that has no reference to me. It appears, in fact, that the comments attributed to Bishan are nothing but the viewpoints of the writer.

If Bishan does have a grievance then I am most surprised. He has been part of team selection for a long time, and worked with the same members with whom I have been dealing. I can't imagine or even dream of dominating such respected senior cricketers like Polly Umrigar, Dattu Phadkar, M. L. Jaisimha and Chandu Sarwate.

"I think it's quite well known that the captain does not have a vote in a selection committee meeting. All he is empowered to do is to take part in the discussions that precede the picking of a side. Moreover, which captain, I ask, would deliberately choose an inferior player and thereby jeopardise his team's chances?

"There is an accusation that I called the Board President and asked for Ravi Shastri to be sent out to New Zealand. Nothing could be further from the truth. First of all, it was the Manager who made the request. Secondly, what the writer, perhaps, does not know is that the doctor told us that Dilip Doshi would not be available till the final Test at Auckland, while Shivlal Yadav would be fit for the second Test.

"It turned out to be the other way around. But it was on the basis of the initial advice that we sought a left-arm spinner as a replacement.

It was a collective decision, in which the Manager, the Assistant Manager, the vice-captain and myself were involved.

"In any case, why would I be seeking to purposely weaken the side, if the contributor is trying to say that more deserving candidates were by-passed? Did not Ravi prove himself by taking fifteen wickets in the three Tests?

"However, despite the article, I have the highest possible regard for Bishan as a cricketer. It was a great privilege for me to be playing in the same side as him. He is the finest left-arm spinner I have ever seen.

"But I am disappointed with *Sportsworld* for having carried the piece. I am one of their correspondents, and I did not expect to be blasphemed against in this manner. It's all very well to say 'Did Gavaskar get Bedi axed?' and put a question mark behind it in the cover. Most people overlook the punctuation and get the impression that I actually did get Bishan axed. It's not very responsible journalism."

Gavaskar and Bedi prior to the Bombay Test against the West Indies in 1978-79



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Sportsworld Exclusive

The immortal Rudy Hartono

PRAKASH PADUKONE

RUDY HARTONO KURNIAWAN was born in Surabaya in a large family of seven brothers and one sister Interestingly, all the brothers and their sister have been badminton players, but have played at different levels Only two among these reached international standards—Rudy and his sister Uttami Devi They got their inspiration for playing badminton from their father, who though he was not a great player himself, was indeed very interested in the game. Badminton being Rudy's father's first love, there was no reason why his children should not excel in the game.

He encouraged them to play this game from a very young age and even built a badminton hall specially for his children. It was in this hall that Rudy started playing badminton as a nine-year-old His father was his "guru" and he was the one who taught Rudy the basic fundamentals of the game Rudy took to the sport very seriously right from his childhood and won many titles at a young age He immediately caught the attention of the Indonesian Badminton Association which quickly realised his potentialand gave him all the encouragement he needed They knew, immediately that they had a future world champion in Rudy Hartono The Association took Rudy under its wings and carefully moulded his career

Rudy took the badminton world by surprise when he won the All-England Championships for the first time in 1968 at the age of 17 Until that time the pattern of the game was more traditional, with emphasis on the toss and drop style. The emphasis was more on stroke play than on power. The players depended more on accurate tosses, delicate drops and backhand strokes, but Rudy completely changed the style of badminton Like in most other games, speed and power replaced strokeplay. The game became faster and more aggressive and the players relied entirely on speed, power and fitness. Thus the game had undergone a complete change. To remain on top the players had to be agressive and remain physically fit. Physical fitness assumed greater importance and became as important as the game itself Players had to devote a lot of time to physical training also, besides developing their game.

Rudy introduced the dribble and smash tactic. His 'half court smashes' added a lot of deception to his game. Rudy used this semiattacking stroke most effectively to create openings, following it up with full-blooded smashes. There was hardly any flaw in his game

Rudy was comparatively weak in his defence but his opponents rarely got a chance to go on the attack. He simply outclassed and outplayed all his opponents in the first few years. His opponents just couldn't cope with his new style of play. As the years passed by, they started analysing Rudy's game and gradually learnt a few of his weak points.

But by then he had already won the All-England title several times. Of the two flanks, Rudy was vulnerable on his forehand. He covered his backhand mostly with overhead strokes and used his backhand only as a last resort—that is, whenever he was caught unawares at the net. But those occasions were very few. If at all there was a stroke which his opponents feared most, it was his overhead smash, which


SPREWK SETT

was both powerful and deceptive It was all the more effective since he executed the smash with a leap in the air. This gave his opponents very little time to return the smashes.

But the point to be remembered here is that to convert a backhand into an overhead shot one has to be very fast At the same time, one should also remember that the forehand will be left wide open. Also, since a player has to cover more ground while playing an overhead stroke, it is imperative that he be in top physical shape.

SINCE Rudy was both fit and fast, he had no real problem in covering the court. Being vulnerable on the forehand did not mean that he was very weak. It only meant that he was more powerful while playing his overhand shots. In other words, he could play only a limited number of attacking strokes on his forehand.

As mentioned earlier, Rudy did not like to be on the defence, especially against hard hitters. If at all he was uncomfortable, it was against players like Svend Pri, Sture Jonson, Ippie Kojima and Punch Gunalan, all of whom had big smashes. Most of these players did beat or extend Rudy at one time or another, but Svend Pri was the only one who beat him, in the All-England Championships.

Svend's victory over Rudy in the All-England finals in 1975 was all the more significant since it brought to an end Rudy's seven-year reign as the All-England champion. By then Rudy had not only equalled Erland Kop's record of seven All-England wins but had also gone one step further by winning it seven times in a row. (Kops had won the title seven times but with breaks) But Rudy was still not satisfied. He struck back strongly after a year and regained the All-England title for the eight time, thus creating a new world record.

In my opinion, the other biggest factor which helped him to win eight All-England and one world title was his temperament He was absolutely cool and was never seen losing his temper even when the odds were stacked against him. He never threw any tantrums on the court and never disputed line calls and decisions of the impires He was always a favourite with fellow players, organisers, spectators, umpires and linesmen alike

Rudy did not play in the first official World Championships in Sweden in 1977, since he had already announced his retirement from competitive badminton by that time Rudy had won all the major tournaments in the world except the official World Championships. So, he staged another comeback and won 'the title that had eluded him—the official world championships—in 1980.

Rudy, besides being a great player has always been a source of inspiration to his teammates. His very presence in the team is enough to build up the morale and confidence of his colleagues—specially the youngsters. Today, Rudy is still a force to reckon with and can pose problems to most of the top players in the world. Rudy has served and will continue to serve Indonesian badminton for a long time to come. How much longer Rudy can continue in competitive badminton is anybody's guess, but there is no doubt that he is one of the immortals in the game of badminton.

Rudy is married to Jane Anwar and has two children, Christopher (4½ years) and Christine (2½ years). Jane's sister is married to Christian Hadinata, one of the leading doubles badminton players of Indonesia. Rudy's sister Uttami DEvi is married to the U.S. National Champion Chris Kinard, while Rudy's younger brother Ferry is engaged to Indonesian doubles player Imelda. So it all looks like one big badminton family.

Triumphant return from the wilderness

CHUNI GOSWAMI

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING have at long last broken the jinx Although they had been totally eclipsed for 13 long years, they have finally proved that they are capable of taking on the best and coming out on top It was a welcome change to see the black-and-whites notching up a string of victories in the light of the fact that they have not been keeping pace with their traditional rivals—Mohun Bagan and East Bengal—over the last few years

In some quarters, indeed, they were probably not fancied any longer as part of the ruling triumvirate. Their dwindling fortunes were the staple conversational diet on the Calcutta Maidan Long deprived of the top honours, the club finally embarked on the comeback trail at the beginning of the Eighties Their efforts bore fruit and the club began notching up some significant victories, although these were restricted mainly to outstation laurels

Mohammedan Sporting's League performance must therefore be viewed against this backdrop. Theirs was more than a creditable performance, it was a veritable homecoming after long years out in the wilderness And, I might add, they really deserved every ounce of the glory

They looked a motivated outfit from the very beginning of the League. They were clearly out to avenge all their earlier defeats and to erase the memories of all previous failures It was a fighting spirit that manifested itself in many ways, but it all added up to glorious football from the spectators' point of view. They played the same brand of football throughout, irrespective of the standard or reputation of their opponents They fought against strong rivals and demolished lesser teams with the same degree of skill, guts and determination They took no chances whatever and their efforts paid rich dividends

Though they dropped a point when they drew with Mohun Bagan, they made short work of East Bengal, a morale booster they needed sorely. As a matter of fact, it was evident during the Federation Cup that the black-and-whites would come back to form with a vengeance. Though they lost against



Md Akbar and Shabbir Ali give vent to their feelings after defeating East Bengal

Glory regained

THE last time Mohammedan Sporting topped the League table was in 1967. This was their eleventh success and the third time they have finished the League without a loss. The previous triumphs were 1934-38, 1940, 1948, 1957 and 1967. They were unbeaten in 1948 and 1967. The black-and-whites were the first side to win the coveted League title five years running, a record which was bettered by East Bengal when they took the top honours from 1970-75.

THE PREVIOUS TITLES

Year	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1934	20	10	7	3	38	16	27
1935	22	11	8	3	37	17	30
1936	22	15	6	1	45	8	36
1937	22	14	6	2	47	16	34
1938	22	13	4	5	38	20	*30
1940	24	17	6	1	42	7	40
1941	26	20	3	3	58	13	43
1948	24	20	4	0	36	6	44
1957	26	19	5	2	53	11	43
1967	26	21	7	0	47	6	49
1981	26	24	2	0	63	3	50

* Beat Customs 1-0 in the playoff.

Members of the 1967 winning team:
C. Mustafa (goal), Hafiz (Joseph), John and S.Sen (backs),
S. Mazumdar (capt.) and Thomas (halves),
Ramana, Anthony Ambrose, Pappana, Sadatulla and Lionel (forwards).

SUJIT KUMAR GHOSH

Mohun Bagan at Madras, they defeated star-studded East Bengal and the manner in which they fought in this match left no doubt in anybody's mind that Mohammedan Sporting would prove the strongest contender for the League honours this year

Indeed, they lived up to the expectations With incredible team spirit the Mohammedan S C players accepted challenge after challenge and proved equal to the task ahead of them The terrible trio of Bidesh, Manash and Shabbir played havoc with their opponents' defences time and again. The less powerful teams simply caved in under the attack, while the more formidable sides had their work cut out against the Mohammedan S.C. forwards. The latter, realising the all-important fact that football is a team game, planned their strategy accordingly. This enabled them to play with perfect understanding which was evident not just among the frontline stars, but pervaded the entire team, down to the last line of defence—the goalkeeper.

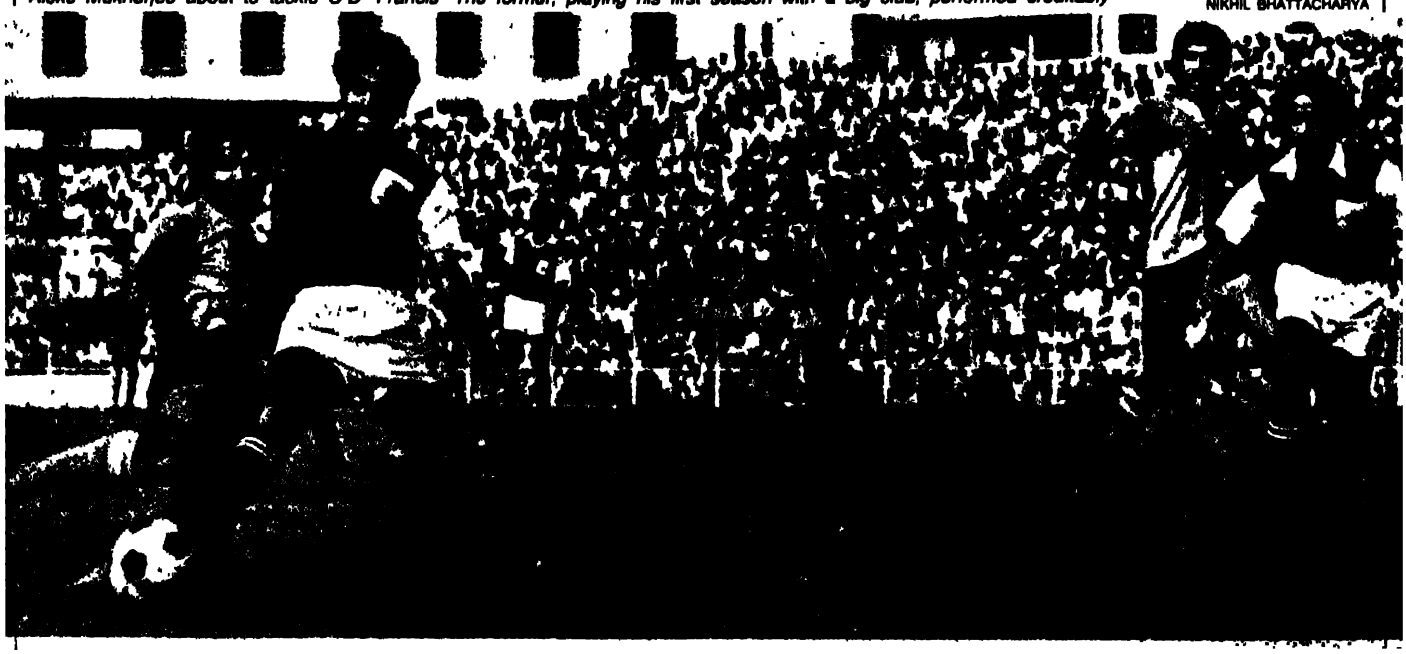
Not surprisingly, therefore, it really paid dividends. Instead of having to depend solely on the form of their top players, the Mohammedan S.C. team could count on their other less glamorous team members as well. Every member of the side performed according to expectations, pulling their own weight magnificently. Thus, when two star performers—Shabbir and Bidesh—were called to attend the Asiad preparatory camp, Mohammedan Sporting had no real cause for worry Despite the absence of these two stars, they had wonderful substitutes in the shape of Kartick Sett and Tapan Das. This is precisely the kind of option that big clubs seldom enjoy.

As for strategy, mention must be made of Prasun Banerjee who was the prime mover of the team on the ground. As I stressed in my earlier analyses of League matches, it was Prasun who on most occasions read the situation accurately and adopted the right strategy for his team In the fashion of an ideal linkman he helped his teammates mount orchestrated attacks on rival citadels Hopefully, he still has a long and prosperous football career ahead of him

Credit must go to the Mohammedan S C. deep defenders too In this respect, Moidul and Aloke outshone most of their counterparts from both big and small clubs, with Bhaskar doing a splendid job for his team in the last line of defence Among his notable performances was the brave fight he put up during his team's last—suspense-filled—engagement with Rajasthan With Mohun Bagan having finished just one point behind, it was a crucial match for Mohammedan S C who faced a stiff challenge

Aloke Mukherjee about to tackle C D Francis The former, playing his first season with a big club, performed creditably

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



from the Rajasthan players. But with Bhaskar playing a great game, Mohammedan S.C. reached home safely.

A word of praise must go to my old mentor Sattarda, under whose guidance Mohammedan S.C. were able to reap the harvest of their toil. Amid the current controversies over coach-player relationships, this veteran footballer has emerged successful.

In contrast to Mohammedan S. C. was East Bengal If the former was perfroming at its valiant best, the latter played at its lack-lustre worst. Ridden as it was with infighting among players and administrators, the club turned out to be the biggest flop of the current League, much to the disappointment of thousands of its supporters. The confusion and neverending stream of controversies over such issues as the choice of coaches which began at the start of the season at Madras told considerably on the team's performance and even the glamour players could make little difference

Unlike Mohammedan S C., East Bengal relied too heavily on its top players like Majid and Jamshid, who (perhaps for some personal reasons) were miserably out of form this year No real team spirit was fostered among the East Bengal players, who consequently appeared a disoriented lot Not only did they fail to check the might of their arch rivals, but, surprisingly, also fell below expectations against clubs that they would normally have sneered at The side's defeat at the hands of Port Trust must have come as a great shock

East Bengal adopted the 4-3-3 combination and at one stage, this tactic worked very well, with Amalraj, Fareed and Machado doing a good job against Mohun Bagan Unfortunately, for East Bengal it was one of those seasons when everything goes wrong and they had to remain content with a humble third position in the League table, despite lavish investments in a host of outstation players

Coming to my club, Mohun Bagan, I must say that I am not totally disappointed to see them finish a not-so-inglorious second. Their performance was in no way inferior to that of its closest opponents, particularly Mohammedan Sporting, barring the debacles against Railway F C and Behala Youth

It is true that its supporters must have left the ground after the match against Behala Youth with their heads hanging in shame But we cannot forget the difficulties which weighed the club down A number of its players have grown old, but they continued to display their seemingly inexhaustible stamina on many occasions during the League Shyam Thapa, Habib, Ulaga, Surajit and Gautam (with an injury) of the older group tried their best to bring home the championship In many a match, Mohun Bagan was also deprived of the invaluable services of Xavier Pius, but, it was the high morale of the team that was proved time and again

In the defence, Subroto was indeed outstanding, though Mohun Bagan conceded a number of goals against junior teams With his characteristic alertness, speed, and fortitude Subroto, in partnership with Samar and others, created a stone wall which could have proved powerful enough to take on the most dangerous forward line in the country

However, the most interesting feature of this year's League is the remarkably good showing of the small clubs Time and again they took on the bigger teams with remarkable courage That fortune favoured the brave is now evident to us all As I have said earlier, it is a welcome trend for Indian football which, for all its sound and fury, still signifies nothing in the international arena

The complete League table

	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Mohammedan Sporting	26	24	2	0	63	3	50
Mohun Bagan	26	23	3	0	64	6	49
East Bengal	26	21	2	3	56	9	44
Rajasthan Club	26	12	9	4	28	12	35
Railway F. C.	26	12	10	4	20	8	34
Port Trust	26	11	12	3	35	16	34
Tollygunge Agragami	26	8	12	6	21	21	28
Salkia Friends	26	6	12	6	31	23	28
Kidderpore	26	7	13	6	16	15	27
Bengal Nagpur Railway	26	9	9	8	23	25	27
Howrah Union	26	7	12	7	19	24	26
George Telegraph	26	6	9	9	28	31	25
Calcutta Gymkhana	26	5	14	7	19	24	24
Aryan Club	26	6	11	9	19	24	23
Sonali Shibir	26	4	14	8	17	24	22
Wari Athletic Club	26	4	14	8	17	29	22
Behala Youth	26	4	13	9	22	38	21
Aikya Sammilani	26	2	15	9	10	21	19
Kalighat	26	4	11	11	10	24	19
Bharat Sangha	26	3	13	10	12	26	19
Bata Sports Club	26	1	17	8	11	26	19
Sporting Union	26	3	13	10	13	29	19
Kumartuli Institution	26	2	15	9	12	31	19
Eastern Railway	26	3	12	11	6	22	18
Police Athletic Club	26	2	14	10	11	25	18
Customs	26	2	14	10	14	36	18
Mirzapore Union	26	5	5	16	12	37	15

M=matches; W=win; D=draw; L=lost; GF=goals for; GA=goals against; PTS=points.

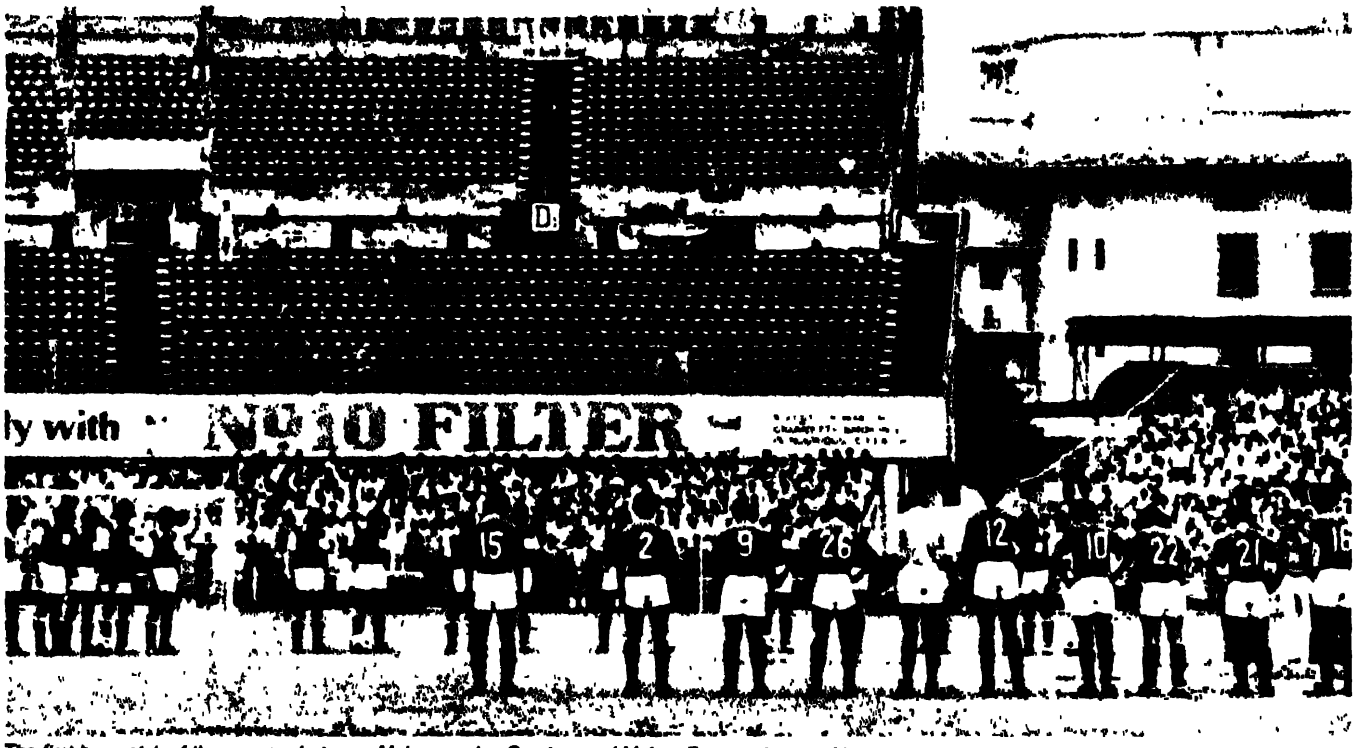
Mohammedan Sporting supporters carry a flag and the symbol of their club after the last match



TAPAN DAS

The League in pictures

PIX NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

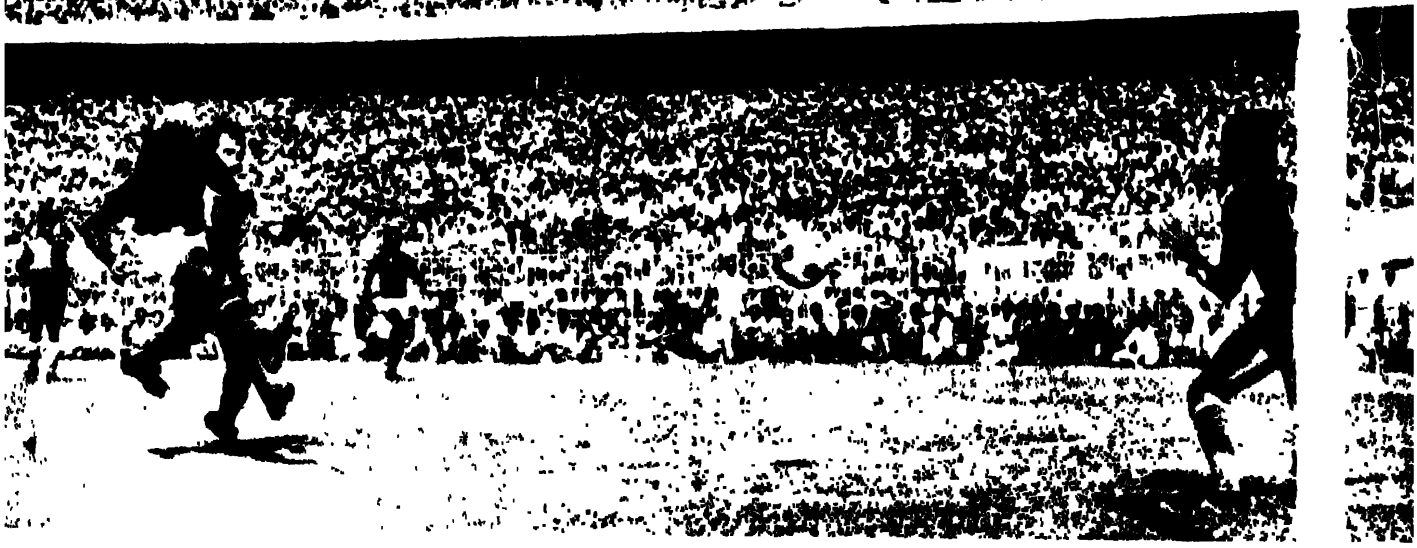


The first big match of the season, between Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan players of both sides observe one minute's silence in memory of those who died when the last match was staged at the Eden Gardens, on August 16, 1980 The gallery where the deaths took place, however was not open to the public

Mohammedan Sporting last won the League in 1967 and the last trophy they won in Calcutta was the IFA Shield in 1971 Not surprisingly, therefore, their supporters turned up for the last match of the League with flags to celebrate a possible victory after more than a decade



TAPAN DAS





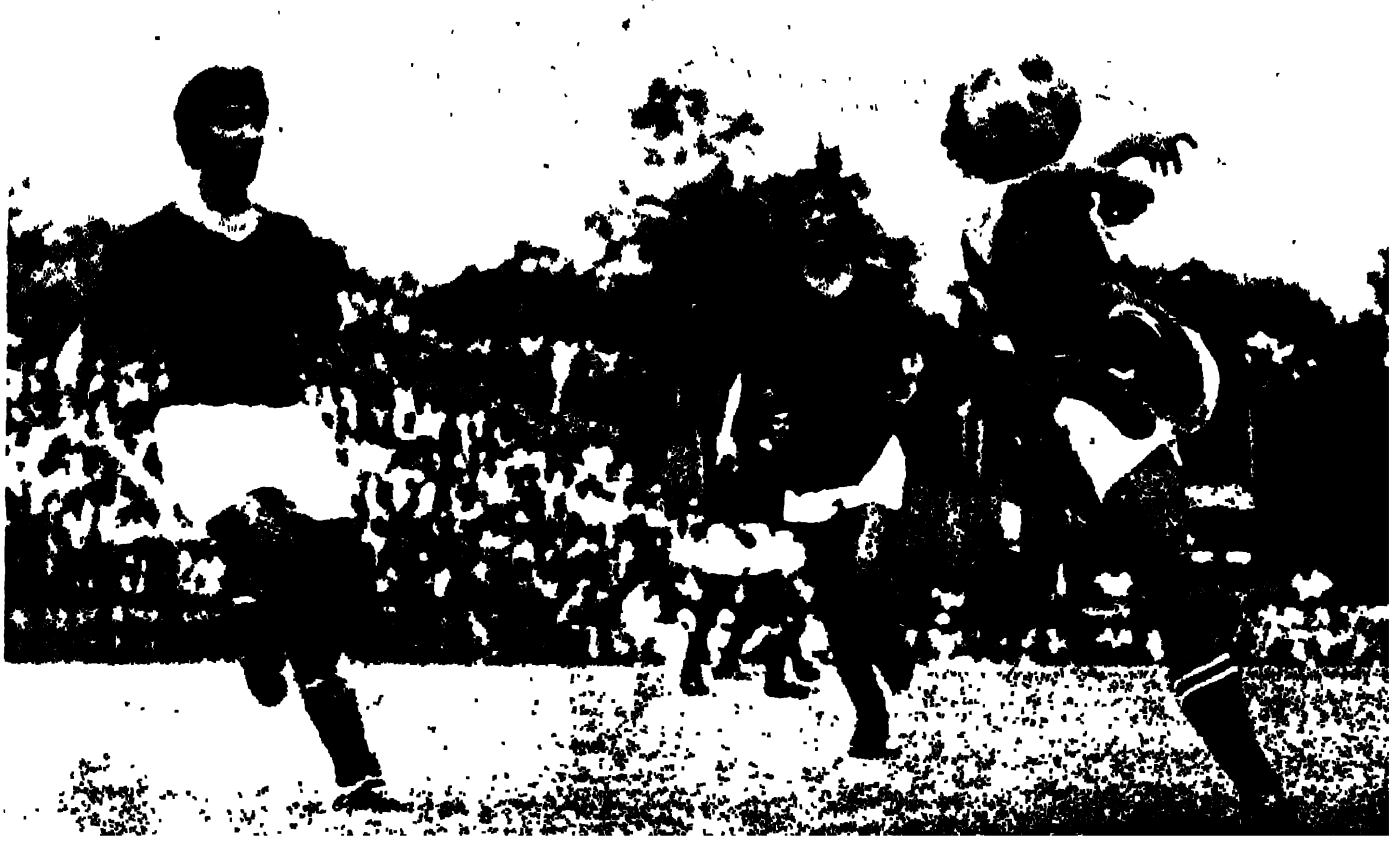


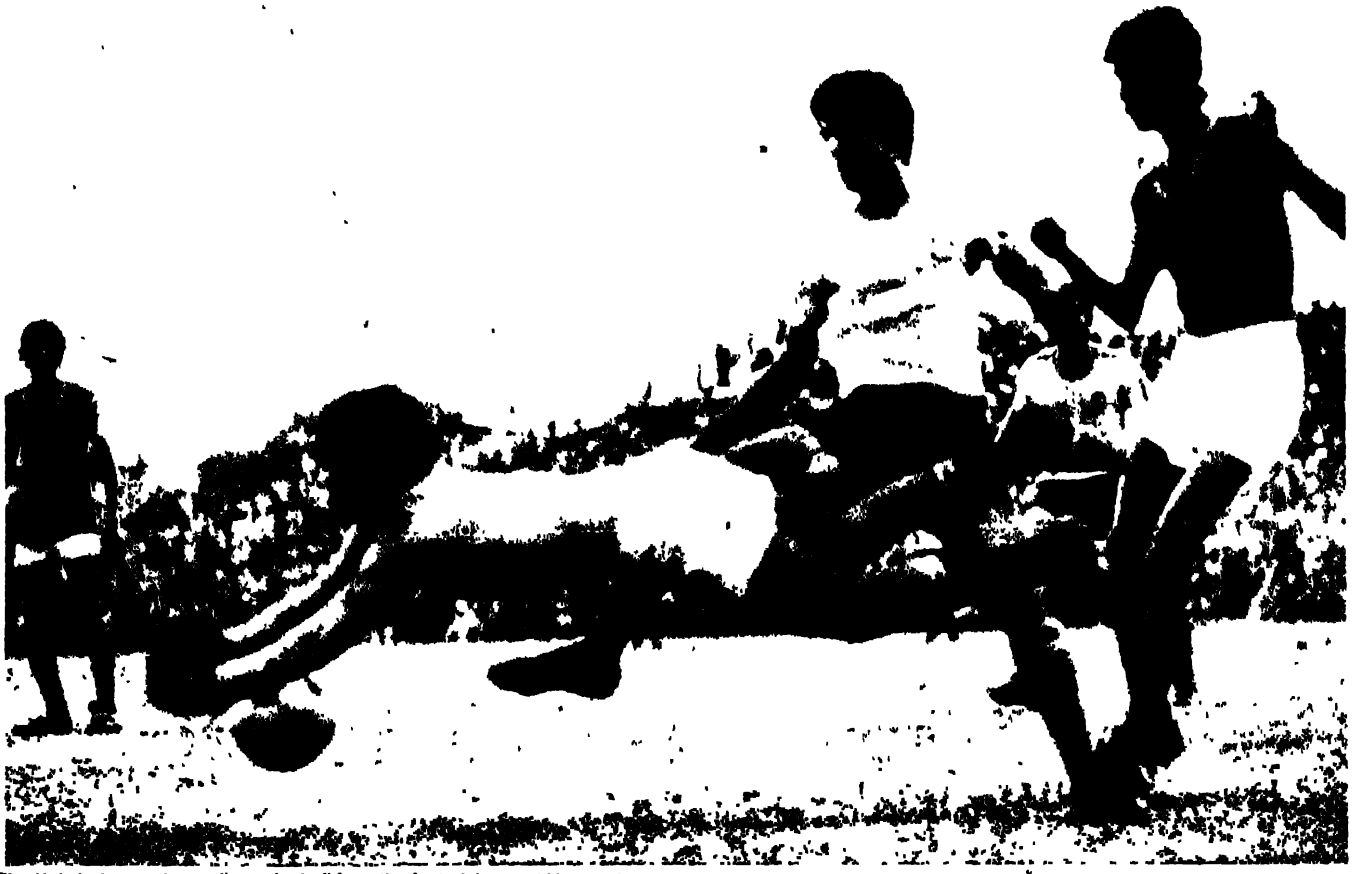
The Mohun Bagan-East Bengal clash was more a prestige issue than anything else this year, as both the teams had fallen behind in the race. In this match, the first goal was scored by Xavier Pius of Mohun Bagan. The sequence shows how it came about.



A notable feature of this year's League was the police arrangements, especially after the shambles witnessed last year. In this picture we see women enjoying match at the Mohun Bagan ground, from the public stands—a welcome change indeed

This is a quiz for our readers It is quite obvious the player who is trying to ti ke the shot is a member of the side that headed the League table t year—Mohammedan Sporting We leave it to readers to try and identify him The first correct answer will be published in our forthcoming issue





The Kalighat custodian collects the ball from the feet of Jamshid Nasim Jamshid, along with Majid Basker (partly hidden) and Mehmud Khabazi were involved in a massive controversy with their coach This had an effect on the performance of their team East Bengal, who finished a poor third

That the rains are an integral part of Calcutta Soccer was amply demonstrated throughout the League But the monsoon was at its worst the day Mohammedan Sporting were to play East Bengal It rained so heavily that play had to be called off and even the efforts of the malis to sweep away the water failed



Coaches' views

My boys strove hard

No favouritism was ever shown to any player, nor was this ever encouraged. Mohammedan Sporting coach ABDUS SATTAR tells SUBHASH SARCAR

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING had been without a coach since last November after Amal Dutta quitted. Explaining the latter's departure, a source said, "The coach was called with the intention of asking him his future plans. However, as the football secretary was a few minutes late the coach left abruptly and we heard nothing about him thereafter." Under the guidance of its senior players, however, the team lived up to its reputation with two joint-winner titles (the Rovers Cup and Stafford Cup), along with the DCM trophy and the Sikkim Gold Cup.

Enter Abdus Sattar. "I took up the challenge prior to the Sanjay Gandhi Gold Cup at Patna. In fact, the assignment was thrown at me suddenly I had to give it some thought before accepting, firstly, because the environment was new and secondly, because I wasn't sure how the players would react to me I think I made the right decision because the players really made me feel at home I must say I was fortunate to have senior, experienced players in the side. My team won the Patna Gold Cup and then went to Madras where they performed brilliantly, beating East Bengal and finally losing to Mohun Bagan in the Federation Cup. This was indeed a big morale booster for the team

"The team returned to Calcutta with the avowed intention of regaining the League title One thing I made clear to them was that since they were an experienced side, I would not have to teach them the basics. The only task ahead of me was to give them my advice and guidance from time to time For their part, the team responded wonderfully, rising to the occasion with a spirit that hardly seemed possible.

"Although we were rather inconsistent, the reason for this was post-Federation Cup fatigue. Also, the change in ground conditions played a part in this However, the players began to find their form although some of them did strike a bad patch now and then.

"Because of these lapses in the initial stages of the League we conceded two goals against Aikya Sammilani and Wari AC We had the necessary cohesion but we lacked co-because of this that we missed so many chances in our matches. There were times, too, when my deep defence made errors against some of the junior teams and this caused me some anxiety. Yet, even in such situations, I was always confident because of the presence of Bhaskar Ganguly.

"I always saw to it that our best players were fielded. No favouritism was ever shown to any player, nor was this ever encouraged. Captain Moidul Islam and I did have words on a couple of occasions, but these were healthy situations Selection was carried out strictly on terms of merit. People did voice the opinion that Gauranga Banerjee was being sidelined but this was a lie. He is a good player and took part in a few League matches but the unfortunate thing was that he had two attacks of malaria, which rendered him very weak. At one time we had thought that we did not have a proper substitute in the wing-back position.

"Young Aloke Mukherjee was asked instead to play in that particular position and he performed well indeed. The moot point was: how could he be rested if he was playing well? He was proving his potential with every match. He is very promising but needs to mature slightly. If he can maintain this level of soccer, he will definitely be an asset to the nation.

"One important guiding factor in our team selection policy was that we would always try and fit in junior players, thereby achieving the right mix of experience and youth. I would be the last one to deny the fact that there is a vast difference between our first team and our second string although Aloke and Balai, and, to a certain extent, Uttam Mazumdar as well, proved to be the best among the second string. One must not forget to mention Kartick Sett, who is very fast and who can play the ball within a very limited area

Prasun Banerjee, who played a vital role in Mohammedan Sporting's success, is lifted by supporters after the victory against East Bengal



"The two linkmen, Prasun and Prasanta, did not work in perfect understanding initially but gradually began to work in unison. Both of them rendered yeomen service. It was popularly thought that Prasun, who normally plays on the left, would not be able to help speedy Manash Bhattacharya. But this foreboding proved to be baseless as Prasun filled the gap created by Gautam Sarkar, who opted to join the black-and-whites.

"That he was really indispensable was driven home by the fact that he turned up to play against medical advice when we were playing East Bengal. Psychologically, his presence had an effect on the opposition and added to this was the fact that a downpour that day proved a blessing in disguise for us. This also helped Prasun a great deal to recover and he was once again the vital link just as he had proved against Mohun Bagan. Indeed, the draw against Mohun Bagan was a morale booster since they had beaten us in Madras. This confidence helped us defeat East Bengal.

"By this time we were nearing our goal and every single match was vital to our success. When Mohun Bagan beat East Bengal, this played on our minds and we received a further setback when we were held by Salkia Friends. Any mishap thereafter would have cost us dearly.

"A word about Prasanta. He too gave of his best and took charge of the vital midfield area in the absence of Prasun. Of course, he too struck a bad patch now and then but he always made amends for his lapses. He was instrumental in the scoring of many a goal and also scored a few himself. The AIFF, I feel, have done him an injustice by overlooking him.

"The great advantage in the forwardline was the induction of the country's two speediest wingers, Manash and Bidesh Bose. The wingers were assets as also the inclusion of positive strikers in Md. Akbar, Shabbir Ali and Tapan Das. Although Tapan played a fewer matches he was, in fact, instrumental in many victories just when we needed them most.

"I was literally on tenterhooks during our last few engagements but I was ecstatic when we won the remaining matches. Not only have we topped the League table; we also had the highest goal-scorer, Manash Bhattacharya, who shared the top spot with Jamshid Nasirri. Manash deserved the hat-trick which eluded him till our 24th encounter.

"My boys had striven for this honour and deserved every ounce of praise they received. It was a great achievement for me as well, since I had had my reservations about taking the challenge. When I played for Mohammedan Sporting in 1949, I was unable to give them the title but this time, in a different role, I have achieved what I failed to do more than [illegible]"

We did not play too badly

Mohun Bagan coach SANKAR BANERJEE tells SARAJIT DEB that although his team performed well, Mohammedan Sporting headed the table because they had the great advantage of young players.

I THINK it would be fair to start with Mohammedan Sporting They had a major advantage in the sense that all their players are more or less of the age, when a player can maintain his form for the strenuous 26-match duration of the League There are some senior players in the side, Prasun Banerjee, Md Akbar and Shabbir Ali, but they were rested whenever this was required, thereby helping them to give of their best when they took the field again.

Another great advantage was that more or less all their players are of the same standard, possessing a similar level of football sense. With the age difference being so negligible, their life-styles must also have been similar and this obviously helped them to develop tremendous team spirit. This spirit went a long way in helping them during their matches against Mohun Bagan and East Bengal. They fought like a close knit unit

Apparently, there was no infighting in the team and this certainly helped out. I know their captain Moidul Islam. He is a very good boy and he was not at all hesitant to seek the help of the senior players of the side Every player was a part of the team In addition, it was a prestige issue for Manash Bhattacharya, Bidesh Bose and Prasun Banerjee They had left their old club and they had a lot to prove.

All these factors helped the team a great deal, especially since the League stretches over three long months and involves 26 matches. That they meant business was quite apparent in the Federation Cup Though they lost to Mohun Bagan in the final, the team played well and there were signs of things to come

Mohammedan Sporting did not start the League too well but one consolation was that Manash was playing like a machine. He was the one who scored the important goals and who played at full steam for the entire duration—70 minutes—of these matches. He laboured like a trooper and if the other players had emulated him and gone all out for all their matches, I am sure Manash would have played even better and would have scored many more goals But then they gradually picked up and the whole team started combining well They truly played as a team and were successful

Individually, besides Manash, three other players must be mentioned In the midfield, Prasun covered a lot of ground and helped the team to a commanding position in that zone, in most of the matches he played Aloke Mukherjee, who made his debut in a

Surajit Sengupta takes a shot—it was creditable on his part to continue throughout the entire League



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big club, was their best defender. He gave nothing away and was one of the finds of the season Last, but not the least, mention must be made of Bhaskar Ganguly Bhaskar's mere presence under the bar, gives a great deal of confidence to the other players He saved his side on a number of occasions from certain goals Take for instance the last match against Rajasthan Had he not saved that ball, the entire story could have been different

Another factor which I think helped the side a lot was the attitude of their officials They gave the players a lot of inspiration—and gifts—when they played well This definitely helped to build up team spirit.

COMING to my team, Mohun Bagan. Right from the start, I knew that my strength lay in my defence But I was also aware of a problem that I was bound to face—there were too many senior players in the teams I knew they would play sensible football but at the same time, they were not expected to maintain the same standard in every match They, senior players, are more prone to injury and to maintain their peak for 26 matches is very difficult.

It would have been ideal, if I had been able to give them the rest they sorely needed. but there were no substitutes and so the strain on my players was apparent in most of the matches. We usually started our matches well but even after scoring two or three goals in the first half, we would suddenly lose control midway through the second The only reason for this was that my players were not able to maintain their initial pace throughout the match.

This problem was most prominent among my wingers In this respect, hats off to Surajit Sengupta, I was unable to give him any rest, but he never grumbled and continued playing On the other wing, there was Ulaganathan. He was the man who was chiefly responsible for us winning the Federation Cup, although I say this without belittling the others. Ulaga has everything in his favour· speed, agility, football sense. He is capable of running down the flank at the same speed at the end of the match as he would at the beginning. However, he could not produce the form he displayed in the Federation Cup.

In the Mohammedan Sporting match, he missed an absolute sitter. If he had been able to score that goal, the entire complexion of the League could have been changed. He had scored a much more difficult goal in the Federation Cup final—it was a 15% chance and with his speed and finishing powers he had been able to convert it. After the Mohammedan Sporting game he started deteriorating and if he had been able to convert the chance against East Bengal, it would have boosted his morale and he could have played better

I was unable to give him enough rest, because, as I have said earlier, I had no other alternative There were no other positive wingers in my side Francis DeSouza was sick—practically throughout the League—and though I tried Arup Das as a winger on a few occasions, he is definitely not a positive winger

Perhaps the most important factor which went against Mohun Bagan was the absence of Gautam Sarkar, after the very first match of the League, due to a hamstring muscle pull His absence was keenly felt but it was obviously not his fault Perhaps it was my bad luck Like Subrata Bhattacharya, he is another player who can inspire the team a great deal, especially in the thick of a game. Even if the team is in a bad position, these players are capable of boosting the morale of the side. In that sphere, also, we missed Gautam. In addition, a lot of time was wasted searching for a suitable replacement for him. To compound my worries, it was during this period, that my team played the worst football of the League and lost valuable points This, in the ultimate analysis, proved crucial

Coming to my defence, and the goals we let in: All four regular players, Compton Dutta, Subrata, Samar Bhattacharya and Shyamal Banerjee played well throughout the season And after the players left for the camp, another player who caught the eye was young Biswajit Bose. This player, along with Krishnendu Roy (who is in the Indian squad to the Merdeka) are my own creations, so to speak I made them into left-backs when I took charge of them as youngsters. I was naturally very glad that Biswajit utilised his chance properly and played well

The obvious question now is· If all the defenders played well, how did we concede eight goals? All of them were very good goals—mostly long distant shorts—and the defenders and the goalkeeper had nothing much to do in each case. At that time, I emphasised to my players that they must tighten the reins, but I'm saying now that the defenders cannot be blamed That my defence was solid was evident in the big matches when they did not give anything away.

Individually, besides my defenders, Mihir Bose, Surajit and Md Habib played well throughout It was all the more creditable for Mihir because he played well both as a striker and

A classic study of Bhaskar Ganguly—his mere presence inspired his colleagues with confidence



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linkman (in the absence of Gautam Sarkar). Xavier Pius, whenever he played—which was rare—was in fine form. Arup was mediocre, unable to maintain the game standard Shyam Thapa, especially in the later stages, when Xavier and Mihir were doing national duty. performed well. In goal, Shivaji Banerjee was good and Pratap Ghosh, though a fine custodian, lacks sincerity. Due solely to his own callousness, he has not been able to perform at the standard he is capable of. In the ultimate analysis, four players stood out, Subrata, Compton (definitely the most improved player this year), Shyamal and Mihir

As a whole, Mohun Bagan did not play badly, if one takes into account the entire League. There were bad patches, understandably so, but these were overcome by tremendous team spirit This was evident in the later stages when some of my players left for the camp and the side was weakened The other players performed in inspired fashion and at certain stages they performed better than the original side More openings were created, there were a lot less mispasses and chances were converted more often All my players were sincere and gave everything they had At no time, did I have to tell them the importance of the matches—they realised this themselves

With regard to the East Bengal team, I think they depended far too heavily on the Iranian duo, Majid Basket and Jamshid Nasirri, Majid is definitely a vital player, comparable to Subrata in our team, but he surely cannot be blamed for the poor showing of his side Players are bound to make mistakes and in this context, I think too much was made of the whole issue. There was so much publicity that it must have affected their performances

A team can lose, but that does not mean that the Iranians are bad The same thing could have happened to any other player and the manner in which they were treated was highly improper Players must be given their due and I felt bad when the controversy was given so much news space They too must have felt the strain and I think the other players, should not encourage this sort of treatment

Among the other teams, Rajasthan played well under the able guidance of stopper Shyamal Ghosh Salkia Friends and Port Trust also performed admirably, troubling the big teams and of course, there was Railway Football Club They were a very well balanced side and proved this when they drew with both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal Against Mohammedan Sporting, too, they put up a good fight This year the smaller teams fought well, really giving the spectators their money's worth.

Lastly, it was indeed heartening to see that the League was completed peacefully, especially after last year's incidents.

Team spirit was the key

Analysing the outcome of the League, East Bengal coach SANTO MITRA tells SARAJIT DEB that team spirit and will power went a long way in deciding the fight for top honours

BEFORE the commencement of the League, I had written about the prospects of the championship in a local paper. In the article, I had mentioned that East Bengal, on paper, were the most formidable side. But I also mentioned that it all depended on whether the out station players of the side would be able to adjust to conditions on the Calcutta Maidan.

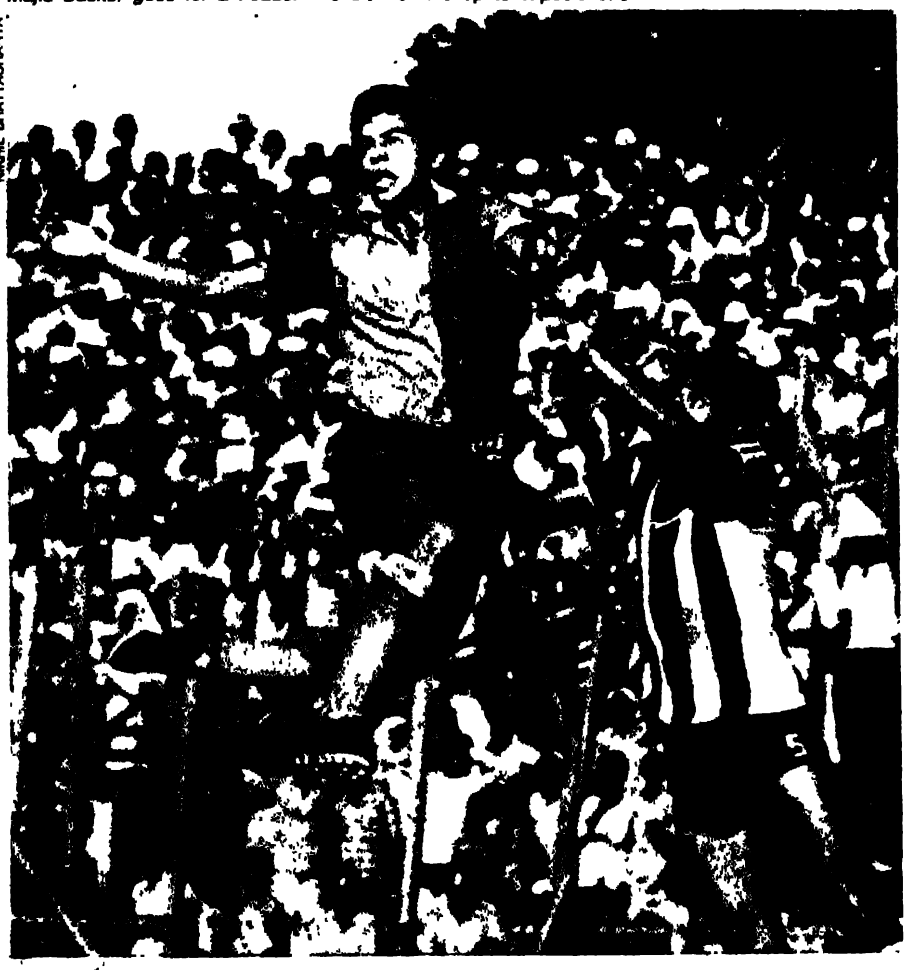
The Calcutta football season can be divided into five so-called "seasons" First it is windy, then it is very hot, followed by heavy rain. After the rains, it becomes very humid and finally, a condition prevails when the ground conditions are extremely muddy despite the heat and humidity. It was in the last "season" that Pele came to Calcutta and was not very successful.

These factors, I knew, would play an integral part in the performance of the teams. But the success of East Bengal, as I had mentioned, would depend a great deal on how the heterogeneous elements of the team would be blended There was the language problem, to start with, food habits differed and the team contained players of diverse temperament Another problem I had mentioned was that there were not too many positive wingers in the side.

Of course, there was Majid Basker and if he could maintain the form he had produced in the later stages of last season, the team would have no problem. In addition, East Bengal had recruited C. D. Francis, Joseph Machado, Amalraj, Premnath Philip, Debashis Roy (all of whom played very well last year), Shekharan and other players who had made a name for themselves. So, for all these reasons, I had rated East Bengal the strongest side, at least player-wise One thing you must not forget—I was not the coach of the team at that time.

In my assessment, Mohammedan Sporting came second because they were a very balanced side. In addition

Majid Basker goes for a header—he did not line up to expectations



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Players of Mohammedan Sporting and East Bengal before their match fell through due to heavy rain

their players were experienced when it came to Calcutta conditions. They had two positive wingers, strikers and of course the best goalkeeper in the country, another important thing was that there was a lot at stake for a few players because they had left their old club It was a prestige issue for them and they were bound to play an inspired game

I also mentioned that Mohun Bagan, with their aged players, were capable of upsetting all calculations All their players were also used to local conditions Another great morale booster was the fact that they had won the Federation Cup beating both their arch rivals On the negative side, both their wingers and linkmen were ageing players, and it was a logical question of how long they could continue Basically, it is a very good side for a knockout tournament—with a lot of experienced players, who are capable of turning the tide at any moment

Though the team started by failing to combine properly, East Bengal kept getting goals in the initial matches of the League—and all their victories were by quite comfortable margins There were a lot of problems they had hardly any practice, all the players were new and Amalraj, who had suffered a severe knee injury, was not fully fit, at least mentally Furthermore, the forwards and the linkmen were not combining well Fareed, definitely the best recruit for East Bengal, prefers short passes, whereas the Iranians rely mainly on long passes Machado, though a sensible footballer, is slow He was having trouble with the fast players of the junior teams

The team did not fare too badly, as we went along But, we suddenly lost a vital point when we drew against Railway FC We missed a lot of chances and then there were the losses against Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan But, I still maintain that East Bengal did not play like a losing side in either of these matches

We missed a great deal of chances in all our engagements Take for instance, Somenath Banerjee. He is a hard unless chances are created, they cannot be missed At least he tried and missed We relied a lot on Majid but he was unable to produce the form expected of him If he had been serious, he would have been able to lift the team and guide the front liners, as Monoranjan Bhattacharya did in defence Monoranjan covered a lot of space and if Majid had been able to do the same, East Bengal would have been in a much better position After the loss against Mohun Bagan, the rest of the matches were insignificant I am not shying away from my responsibilities—perhaps I failed to inspire the team to the extent I should have

Individually, Monoranjan played a great game Jamshid Nasirri was a vastly improved player and I am sure Fareed will come up He is very sincere and devoted, but he must develop his tackling

ON the other hand, Mohun Bagan started on the most confident note among the big three There were two reasons for this: their wingers, Surajit Sengupta and Ulaganathan were functioning well and the team was in high spirits, thanks to the victory in the Federation Cup Gradually, however, they started to slacken off and landed themselves in trouble

The reasons for that two of their leading players, Gautam Sarkar and Xavier Pius were not there in the side Goal scoring chances became fewer because the half line was failing to feed the forwards properly All this put continuous pressure on the defence and it was during this period that they drew two vital matches, against Railway FC and Behala Youth

After Gautam was included in the team, they played East Bengal and beat them. This was a great morale booster for the side and with this momentum they won all their remaining matches of the League They became more serious when they realised that they still had a chance, that is if Mohammedan Sporting lost points The players, being local, felt for the team and maintained their winning spree, remaining unbeaten in the

Subrata Bhattacharya provided the main inspiration for the team. He played treamendous football, especially against Mohammedan Sporting and East Bengal In both matches he was by far the best player on the ground. He was ably supported by the other defenders, Compton Dutta, Shymal Banerjee and Samar Bhattacharya. In fact, this was the best defence line, even though they let in eight goals. It would be unfair if mention is not made of Mihir Bose. He played a very vital role for the team

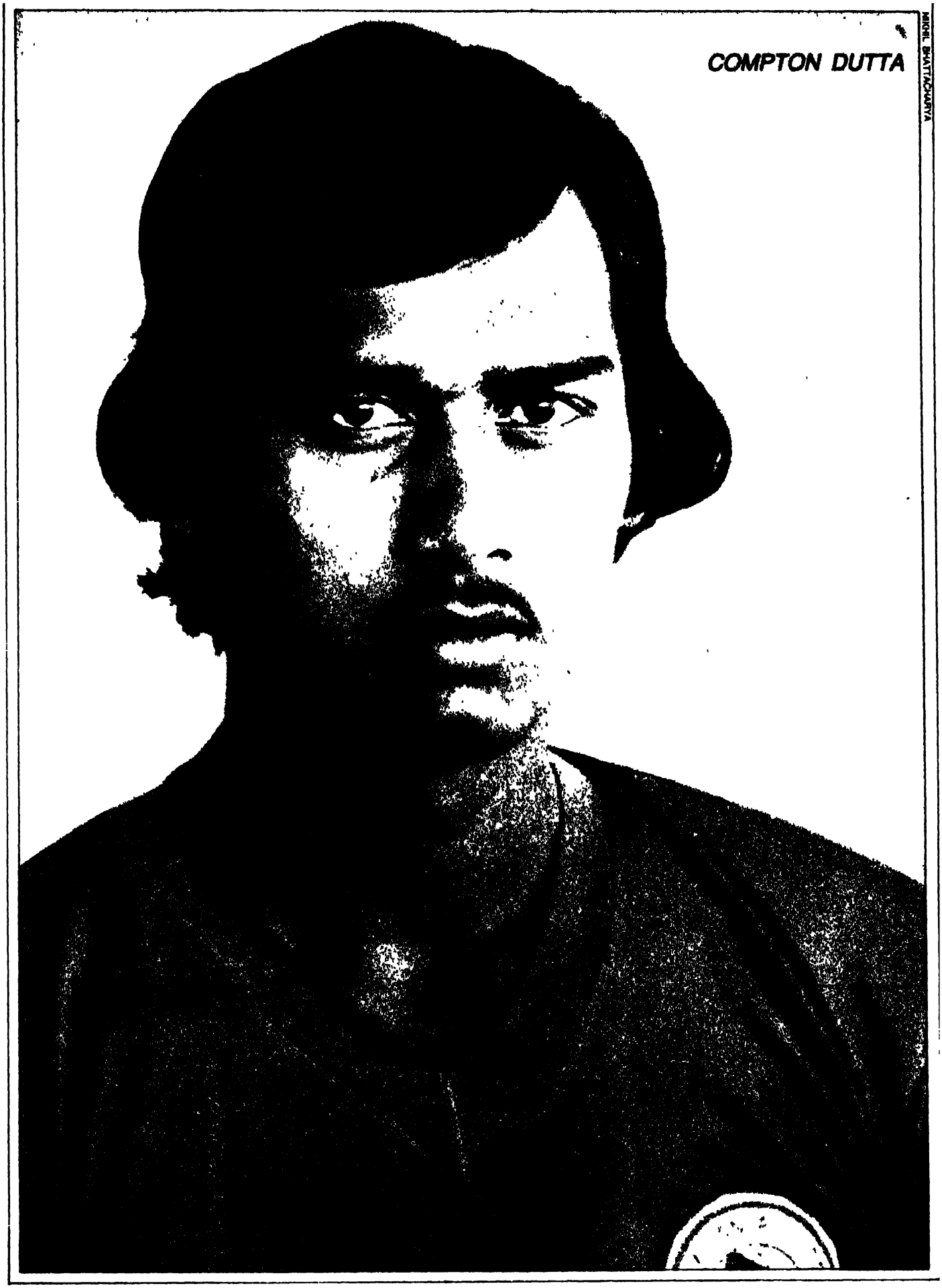
Coming to the team that headed the League table, Mohammedan Sporting. They, too, did not start well and were struggling to win, even at full strength. Manash Bhattacharya and Bidesh Bose, their two wingers and their main weapons, were not in the best of forms, Shabbir Ali was in the camp and Md. Akbar and Prasanta Banerjee were injured The two stoppers, Moidul Islam and Romen Bhattacharya were in continuous trouble

It was at this juncture that they drew their vital match against Mohun Bagan This gave them confidence and though that since East Bengal had dropped a point, they had a very good chance The wingers started playing well and they gained a further advantage when Mohun Bagan dropped another point before their match with East Bengal This inspired the team to beat East Bengal

After that, it was practically a foregone conclusion that they would head the League table The players were in their element and the officials, realising that the title was within their grasp after 13 long years, inspired the players in turn. I'm not saying that the officials of the other two teams did not inspire the players—what I mean is the inspiration from the Mohammedan Sporting officials was greater

For the players it was a challenge They were more serious and played cautiously. Then, when the players left for the camp, practically the entire burden of the team was carried—and ably so—by Manash An advantage they had was that their reserve players were also capable of filling in That their second string players were the best among the big three was proved and they all played with tremendous will power and they treated it as a prestige issue. Ultimately, of course, they were successful.

I feel sorry for Manash He played so well and yet was overlooked for the Indian team to the Merdeka Prasanta Banerjee acted as the pivot of the team Some people might say that Prasun played a great game against East Bengal. I do not agree with them, but at the same time I say that his mere presence helped the team a lot In goal, Bhaskar Ganguly saved a lot of certain goals and last but definitely not the least, mention must be made of Aloke Mukherjee. This was his first season with a big club and what a mature game he played throughout


COMPTON DUTTA
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Football is his 'medicine'

SARAJIT DEB profiles the man who opted for soccer in preference to a medical career

HE has done it again. The joint top scorer of the 1979 Calcutta League, Manash Bhattacharya, has once again headed the goal-getters' list this season, with 18 goals As in 1979, he has topped the list jointly "I would have been happier if I had been able to top it alone, but I am even more happy because my new club, Mohammedan Sporting, has regained the League title after 14 long years. I am really proud that I was a member of the team, and also that I figured in all the matches, and stayed on for the entire duration "

Manash's first-ever goal on the Calcutta Maidan was scored against Mohun Bagan That was way back in 1973 when he used to play for Calcutta Gymkhana Surajit Sengupta had given Mohun Bagan the lead and it was through his goal that Gymkhana equalised That was Manash's first appearance against a "big" team and his second in the League

He was brought to the Calcutta Maidan by Swapan Lahiri, who had helped him to find a place in the Gymkhana team The same year he came into the national limelight when he represented Bengal in the junior Nationals Though they lost to Kerala in the semi-finals, after missing "a thousand goals", they won the title next year at Coimbatore, avenging the defeat against Kerala beating them by two goals, both being scored by Manash

Manash has never looked back After a two year stint with Gymkhana, he joined Aryan "In fact I could have joined them in 1974, but I'd given them my word that I would play for two years, so I stayed on " His association with Aryan also proved fruitful "Before we started our League campaign, we went to play the Bandodkar Gold Cup at Goa Though we lost the semi final against Vasco Sports Club, I was adjudged the best player " But that year he was unable to play against the big teams as he had office duty In 1976, an offer came from Mohun Bagan but Manash refused "I thought I might not get regular chance At the time they already had Bidesh Bose and Ulaganathan " That year Manash shot into the limelight when playing for Aryan he scored a beautiful goal against East Bengal, after dribbling past a couple of defenders—a goal that many fans still remember

"It is the wish of every footballer to play for a big club, so when I joined Mohun Bagan in 1977 my wish was fulfilled Sankar Banerjee, the former Indian international who currently coaches Mohun Bagan, was my guide and mentor. In fact, it was he who brought me over to Mohun Bagan. As long as I play, I'll never forget him."

Before the League got under way that year, Manash went to Teheran, representing Youth India. After he came back he was a regular in the side and scored four goals in the five matches he played before he went abroad again, this time to Afghanistan. This time he was a member of the senior team, in which most of the players were junior stars. He again found a place in the side after the tour and had the satisfaction of registering a hat-trick against Port Trust

He was a valuable member of the "Triple Crown" team. "Yes, I have vivid memories of 1977 In the IFA Shield, Shyamda (Shyam Thapa) scored for us (Mohun Bagan), and I had the satisfaction of centering the ball that started the goal move In the Rovers semi-final, we beat East Bengal once again, this time 2 0 It was Shyamda who scored both goals again, from my centres The year 1977 was very good for us Even though we lost to East Bengal in the League, we won the Triple Crown, the IFA Shield, Rovers and Durand And remember, we had that match against Cosmos at the Eden Gardens, in which the great Pele played I think Mohun Bagan put up a very good fight that day "

But the next year did not have an auspicious start for him He got injured at the beginning of the season, "when we played in the Far East " He was injured once more in the middle of the League and had to make way for Subhas Bhowmik "After the East Bengal match, I got into the team " Manash still remembers with nostalgia the goal he scored against Ararat in the final of the 1978 IFA Shield "Full credit for that should go to Habibda " The 1978 season ended very well for him when he helped Bengal win the Nationals at Srinagar 'It was through my goal in the final, against Goa, that we won In the semi finals also, it was thanks to a goal by me that we were able to beat Maharashtra in the double-leg "

MANASH was undoubtedly the star of the 1979 League With a tally of 23 goals, he headed the goal-getters' list along with Shabbir Ali of East Bengal "This was very unfair In East Bengal's last match, if you remember, the score was 3-3 against George Telegraph. Tell me, how could there have been such a result unless the match was fixed? If it had been 3-0 in favour of East Bengal, I would have had no reasons for regret. But that was too much " Manash was helped a lot by his linkmen, Gautam Sarkar and Prasun Banerjee. "I do not deny their contribution. Another player who helped me a lot was Shyamda However, I first tried to create chances for others, only later taking my own scoring chances."

That year Mohun Bagan won the League, and his contribution was indeed considerable, especially if one takes into account the vital Mohun Bagan-East Bengal match. East Bengal were leading by a goal, through Shabbir Ali, when literally out of nowhere Manash scored the equaliser for his side Chinmoy Chatterjee, the right back passed the ball back to custodian Bhaskar Ganguly from about 40 yards, but Manash, one of the nippiest forwards in the game, was waiting and he darted towards the ball from the opposite flank, beat the onrushing Bhaskar and placed the ball in the open net His cardinal principle "always try to follow the ball, you never know what might happen" paid rich dividends that day

Before the Indian team led by Prasun Banerjee toured the Middle East, Manash helped Mohun Bagan to win the IFA Shield, beating East Bengal in the final. Manash finished the trip in a blaze of glory, prompting skipper Prasun to write "I have not seen a player perform so well on his first international outing as Manash did here " He was again in the Indian team for the pre-Olympics at Singapore, before the start of the 1980 season

The season was not completed, however, the League and Shield being abandoned midway Personally, too, it was not a very good season for Manash "Yes, I agree I was nowhere near the form I had shown in 1979, but it was not as bad as people say Mohun Bagan had played 10 League matches and I had played nine, scoring nine goals In the Durand, we played well and won the championship, beating Mohammedan Sporting "

He was included in the Bengal team for the last Nationals, thereby making it five-in-a-row He began representing the State at the Patna Nationals in 1976 and has always figured in the team since then His only regret is that Bengal failed to win the championship this year Just after the Nationals, Manash and 20 other players were involved in the controversy that shook the country's football fraternity: the desertion from the Asiad coaching camp. Thereafter began a new phase for Manash, when he, along with Pra-

sun Banerjee and his close friend Bidesh Bose left their old club, Mohun Bagan, to assist Mohammedan Sporting for the forthcoming season.

Mohammedan Sporting started the season well, winning the Gold Cup at Patna and sharing the Stafford Cup at Bangalore with East Bengal. They were, without doubt, the most prominent side in the quarter-final stages of the Federation Cup at Madras. And it was all the more creditable for the wingers, Manash and Bidesh, that most of the goals came from their centres.

Inexplicably, the team slumped at the semi-final stage and ultimately lost to Mohun Bagan in the final "We went through a bad patch but we were confident that we would overcome our problems I remember one particular incident very clearly In 1977 after we (Mohun Bagan) had lost to East Bengal in the League, Pradipda (P.K Banerjee), who was then our coach, told us 'A professional never makes the same mistake twice You must play well and win when the two teams meet again ' That year we won the Triple Crown This credo is something I really believe in I also told my players not to be disheartened and that we would definitely be successful in the League "

Manash started his League engagements in a whirlwind fashion At that point, all the other players were struggling to find their form but it was Manash who played an important role, helping his side to win those early, crucial matches In the later stages of the League, when some of their players had left to join the Asian Games camp, he practically carried the entire burden of the team on his able shoulders and came out successfully Shabbir and Bidesh were in the camp and to add to his woes, Tapan Das and Md Akbar were injured, but he carried on gamely and guided the junior players of the team It was during this period that he scored a hat-trick, against Behala Youth. "But that was not my best match My best match was against Eastern Railway In the first half we had failed to score and in the second, we scored four goals, the first three coming from my centres My worst performance in the League came in the match against Aryan at the Mohun Bagan ground." When I asked him whether it was due to the fact that he was playing against his old team and on another old club ground, he just laughed.

I asked him why he had scored fewer goals this year, than he had in 1979. He replied: "In 1979, it was a peculiar situation. At one point, I was the only one scoring and other forwards, Bidesh, Xavier and Shyamda were always helping me to score. They were not getting the goals. I scored 23 and the next man was Xavier with nine. This year, though there was a difference. In the team there were two strikers, Shabbir and Akbar, who are assets for any side. My basic duty was to feed them and Bidesh and I were successful in doing so, for 80 per cent of the goals they scored, were from our


TAPAN DAS

That Manash does not lack determination is amply proved in this picture, where he goes for a tough tackle

centres I still believe, if both had played the full season, one of them would have been the top scorer Akbar got 10 goals, Shabbir nine and they were followed by Tapan and Kartick Sett with seven "

Manash was helped a lot by Gautam, who guided him all along in 1979 The question on everyone's lips was whether Manash had made the right decision in leaving Mohun Bagan. Besides, another problem that he was bound to face was that neither of the halves in his side, Prasun and Prasanta Banerjee, was a positive right-half, which meant he could not expect much help from them "Gautamda is an asset to any team, especially in the big matches. It has indeed been my good luck that I have played alongside him, because he has helped me a lot Except in the big matches, I did not feel the absence of a positive right half. In the big matches, the players are worked up and try to play their natural game and on that score Bidesh got more of the balls, because it is the natural inclination of both Prasunda and Prasanta to push the ball on the left. In the other matches, I did not feel this difficulty, because both supplied me with a lot of balls."

A VERY good student, Manash passed the Higher Secondary examination with a first division and after that had a chance to study medicine, but he chose football instead and does not have any regrets about his decision He graduated with a distinction and is an intelligent boy, although he can sometimes be a little childish As P K Banerjee, his ex-coach said "He is a very amiable boy, who is always willing to learn and has the tenacity to work hard "

Manash has beautiful control on both legs, and can trap, dribble and shoot with either foot He is deceptively fast and this has helped him on a number of occasions to put the opposing defenders on the wrong foot "He can smell a goal, it is in his blood," said PK Another great asset of his is that he can check his speed, a trait he often displayed this year Also, he is unafraid to shoot at goal, without any delay whatever

His willingness to learn has helped Manash to mature into a fine player He has learnt to control his speed and has got over his initial hastiness in front of the goal and can decide when to "spark" By remaining cool, he has been able to get goals, but perhaps his best quality is that he never gives up and is always after the ball. A man of short stature, his heading is not up to the mark, but he makes it up for this with his dedication Though he loves to score goals he says "I feel happier if a goal is scored off my centres"

One might find it hard to believe that Manash used to feel scared to wear boots It was only in his final year at school that he started wearing them

This man, then, is the true gentleman footballer.


Sportsworld
ALLAN BORDER



Botham: the one-man demolition squad

Woe betide anyone who gets in the all-rounder's way, warns TONY LEWIS

ALTHOUGH England retained the Ashes, Australia salvaged her pride That was the simple message from Old Trafford The tourists had 506 to win on the fourth innings and they achieved a massive 402 It took them over nine hours but they were only 85 minutes from saving the match and 104 runs from winning it It is the second highest total an Australian team has ever scored in the last innings of a Test, only two runs short of the 404 for 3 by which Don Bradman's side won the Leeds Test in 1948

The match was played in warm, sunny weather and on a slow pitch It contained many of the features we have come to expect from these two sides– the communal batting collapse in the first innings full of inexplicable dismissals, nine wickets in the match for Terry Alderman, seven vital wickets for Bob Willis and, finally, the almost predictable dominance of Ian Botham Man of the Match for third successive time

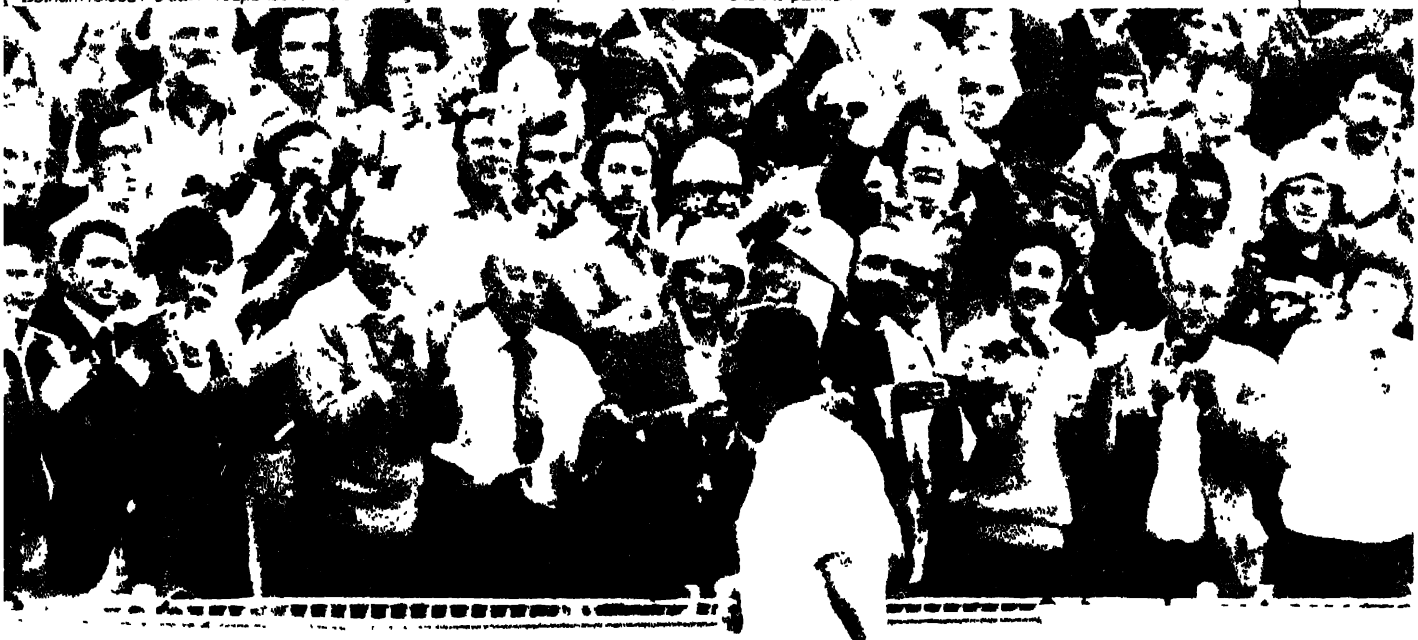
I was chatting to Mike Brearley during the match and suggested that Botham, who had scored a breathtaking hundred was in the mould of Jessop Brearley preferred the comparison with W G Grace Indeed, Kim Hughes, the Australian captain believed that Botham was the only difference between the sides in three Tests

In England's first innings of 231– Brearley having won the toss Botham collected a duck, our first ball Yet even in total failure, there is something huge and heroic about him when he is on stage He disdainfully turned a widish ball from Whitney into the hands of gully, but it was still rather like Goliath ducking into the stray impertinent stone His performance built up when Australia went in to bat He first caught Dyson comfortably at knee height in the third slip position Four balls later, in the same over, he dived forward from third slip to the left-handed Yallop and scooped up a miracle catch - it was fast, low and going downwards He also caught Marsh at slip

In spite of the good pitch, England struggled in their second innings and almost ground to a halt as Tavare and Boycott collected only 29 runs in the two-hour morning session of the third day Botham took a long look at the bowling and then flayed it all over Manchester His 118 sent England soaring towards the large score of 404

Came the time to winkle out the opposition and Botham stepped in with the wickets of Hughes and Alderman then, most brilliantly, a catch at second slip to get rid of Dennis Lillee

Botham raises his bat in response to the standing ovation from the spectators as he returns to the pavilion





Lillee put on 51 for the eighth wicket with Allan Border Time was running out for England Lillee slashed an upward cut at a short ball from Allott, a shot he had played many times in the series It flew two yards wide of Botham and shoulder-high He spun around, stretched to the limit, and held it a split second after it had actually passed him All eyes had followed the likely flight of the ball to the boundary and a stunned silence erupted into a mighty roar

I write about one man's performance because I agree with Kim Hughes that Ian Botham was the difference between the two sides It was certainly a game of individuals Chris Tavare was recalled to the England side to play his third international match He was woefully slow, but his runs were most valuable, 69 out of the first innings 231 and 78 of the 404 His was the third slowest fifty in the history of cricket in the second innings, made in 303 minutes

There were two debutants, Paul Allott for England and Mike Whitney for Australia Allott is six feet seven inches, slender, moustached and bespectacled His action is high but there was no great movement off the seam or in the air to report He took four wickets, those of Wood, the opener, twice, Whitney and Lillee However, the big surprise was his batting In the struggling first innings, he scored 52 not out at number ten

Whitney, amazingly, was playing only the seventh first class match of his life He had played four matches for New South Wales and had come across to England for experience with Gloucestershire Gloucestershire cannot play him often because of the restriction on overseas players, but Mike Procter is injured and possibly out for the rest of the season That gave Whitney the chance

Then Australia's squad fell apart Lawson and Hogg were injured and the Australian management asked that Whitney be released from the County match which he had just begun against Hampshire So the square-shouldered, left arm seamer walked out into dreamland at Old Trafford He got two wickets in the first innings, Tavare and Gower, then Botham and Emburey in the second He got a quick duck in the first and, with much courage he supported Allan Border for 35 minutes in the second, to collect a slow pair

For Australia, Alderman proved again his stamina, and the merit of having a good, whippy wrist action Kent looked promising, with attractive strokes off the back foot for his first innings 52 Marsh again kept wicket brilliantly Batting lost them the game in the first innings of 130, but then, I witnessed two performances with the bat which have come too late in the series for the side's good, but which will be long remembered at Old Trafford

Graham Yallop threw off all the jitters of the previous Tests He stood his ground and played his shots He got 114 marvellous runs and while he was there the talk was of a miracle result

Above all others, save Botham, Allan Border played the most stubborn and brave innings He had not fielded for much of the match because he had broken a bone in the third finger of the left hand, his bottom hand on the bat A special batting glove was cut so that he could strap two fingers together It was a miracle of endurance as ball after ball jarred the injury and sent his head between his knees and the hand swinging limply with pain

Apparently, when Border had completed a century and was looking set for another, Alan Knott took a ball outside the off-stump which had beaten Border's bat Knott turned and exclaimed to Brearley "Did you see that? He actually missed one!" No greater compliment can be paid

So England won by 104 runs and Ian Botham's reputation has reached the supernatural The magnificence of his innings was that he completely overturned the whole slow tempo of the play He reduced dominant, neat-and tidy bowlers to net bowlers He always played the right shot to the appropriate ball He hooked Lillee four times for six, hit Alderman over wide mid-on for six, and how did he pass from the nineties to his century? With a six swept away off Bright's slow left arm bowling which went over the outstretched fingers of Lillee, who was on the boundary at longleg

Power, strength and timing A last word from the losing captain "When Ian Botham tires, we know we will lose because he is a real match winner Anyone who tries to change his approach is out to be lynched"

Botham taking a sip from a can of beer given to him by Rodney Marsh after England's victory in the fifth Test Beside Botham is Paul Allott





It was the absence of Greg Chappell that cost Australia the series

Had the former Australian captain been included in the squad, says MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI, the outcome of this Ashes series could well have been different. Chappell would have helped turn the tide not only with his batting but also with his leadership qualities. However, the author notes, back home in India there is the worrying trend of cricketers taking swipes at one another whenever they get the opportunity

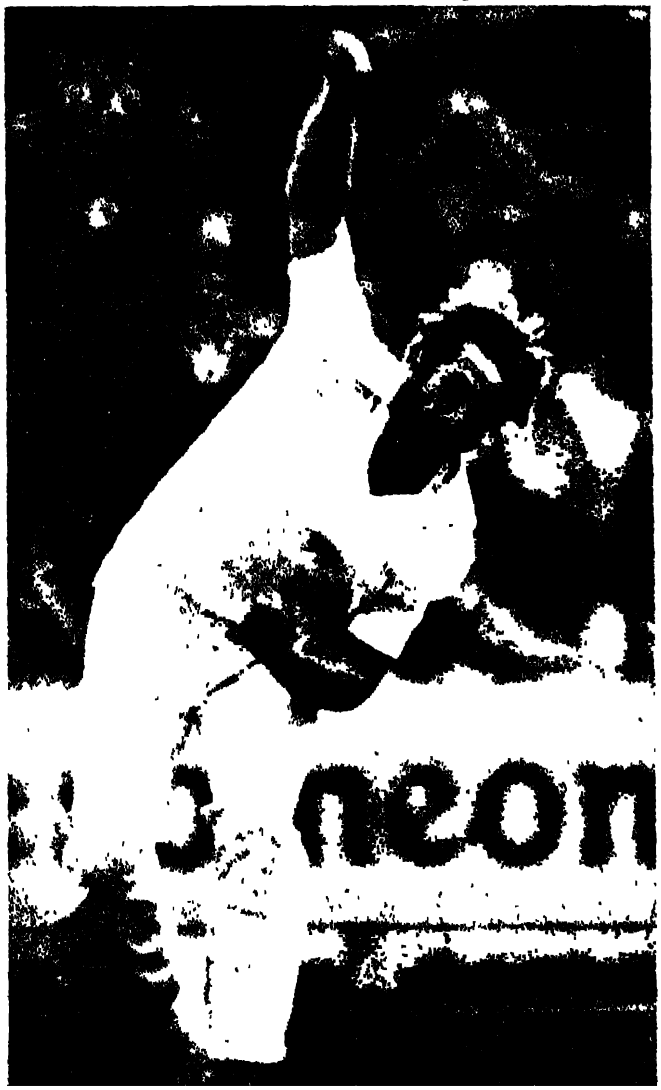
IN spite of Brearley's brain and Botham's efforts with the bat and the ball the main contribution to the result of the recently decided series in England was provided by the Australian batsmen themselves

Some accurate if not hostile bowling and some astute field placing caused confusion and at critical moments Australia was unsure whether to graft for runs or to go for the big hit Since she did neither, she succumbed almost as if mesmerised

In the final analysis, it was the absence of Greg Chappell which made the difference between losing and winning, and if the very strong rumour that Chappell had offered his services, which had been politely declined, following the Australian victory at Trent Bridge is correct, then Australia has only herself to blame

There are those, of course, who will point out that this particular Chappell

Botham in delivery stride he turned the tide for England



CENTRAL PRESS PHOTOS

Allan Border gritty batting throughout the series





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has never been a great success in England but there cannot be many who will deny that the minor deficit which eventually decided two Test matches would have been made up by a player of his calibre.

In effect, the situation was somewhat similar to the one India faced earlier this winter Her only chance of winning was to dismiss Chappell cheaply and the only time this happened she won England had it easier, and despite batting against an attack immeasurably improved by the inclusion of Alderman, her bowlers felt quite confident of disposing of the Australian batsmen for low totals

Hughes' comparative inexperience, and youthful exuberance, were no effective substitute for the kind of leadership that England enjoyed, and which was so necessary for Australia to increase her original lead and clinch the series Whatever happens in the final Test, this series saw some remarkable games

The standard, however, was not high enough to generate the kind of interest that the English reserve for contests against Australia Presently, the only side which can pull in capacity crowds is the West Indies, but the immediate future does not envisage a tour by them, and the English cricket administrators must be praying that the sponsors remain keen

India, where people pay a premium to see, as much as to be seen, does not have the same difficulties, but there are other problems here A relatively new trend for cricketers to speak of and write about not only the game, but their associates—and often disparagingly so—seems to have started

Vijay Manjrekar, one is informed, is in the process of writing a book that intends to "reveal" all, and so is Bedi Gavaskar has already written one in which some of his co players came in for a bit of personal disapproval and so has Prasanna

Now, a recent interview given by Bedi has suggested that Gavaskar be held responsible for his premature departure from the arena

Bedi is, of course, entitled to his view and one is quite aware that the public has certain rights to information regarding their heroes Truth, as they say, must be out, but facts also have a funny way of suiting personal interpretations, and one must be very sure of one's facts especially if they are likely to create controversy and animosity

Bedi may be right or wrong either way the game will survive but if further revelations by cricketers are going to be in the same vein, it will not be quite the same game On a tour, and even during a home series a team consisting of a bunch of imperfect human beings spends most of its time well within hearing distance of each other

Many things are said and done, sometimes under tension and pressure, at other times with deliberate malice, the latter mostly due to frustration, but there is an unwritten law that they remain within the precinct of the dressing room

If this trend is now to change, and if incidents of yesteryears are to be made public at any given time in the future it is unlikely that there is going to be much mutual trust between a bunch of players whose main object is to play together as a team And that, I am afraid, could put Indian cricket back about 30 years and more, to a time I am told when individual success was considered a more worthwhile pursuit, than the performance of the team



Wood has established a place for himself

The captain's counsel Aussie skipper Kim Hughes gives some advice to Geoff Lawson



County Cricket Review

Bookmakers favour Northants

ASHIS RAY reports from London

SO, the Natwest Trophy has reached the stage of the finalists, with the clash for the title coming off on September 5. It will be a match between Northamptonshire and Derbyshire, who defeated Lancashire and Essex, respectively, to make the grade Both outcomes, in fact, were minor surprises as Lancashire boasts of a glorious tradition in the Gillette Cup—predecessor to the Natwest Trophy—having taken the title four times—more than any other County, and looked like recovering their lost glory under Clive Lloyd this season, while Essex, one of the strongest County units in England, and current leaders in the John Player Sunday League, are always a tough nut to crack

However, both encounters were extremely exciting, as one-day affairs can be, and the qualifiers got through by no more than a whisker. Northamptonshire edged past by one wicket, while Derbyshire, having scored the same number of runs as their opponents, were declared winners by virtue of losing fewer wickets

Conditions were difficult in both ties, and at Northampton, Lancashire batting first obtained no more than 186 for nine in their 60 overs They started well, with Graeme Fowler and David Lloyd putting on 110 for the second wicket, but the latter batsmen made heavy weather of the Northants attack, which threw up the medium pacer, the honourable Timothy Lamb, son of Lord Rochester, as the most successful bowler, with three for 28. In Northamptonshire's innings, Geoff Cook (31), Richard Williams (41) and Jim Yardley (31) batted adequately in the top order but the side collapsed to 174 for nine and all seemed to be lost for them. But the last wicket pair of Tim Lamb and Brian Griffith, amidst growing tension, hit the required runs to deny Lancashire victory

At Derby, too, the losers batted first Never quite successful in coming to terms with the conditions, Essex were shot out for 149 All the big names like Graham Gooch, Keith Fletcher and Kenny McEwan failed to make an impression, and it was left to the West Indian fast bowler, Norbert Phillip, top scorer with 42, to prop up the effort In Derbyshire's venture, 21-year-old Kim Barnett struck an invaluable 59, while everything crumbled around him

Ultimately, there came a point when Derbyshire needed 10 runs to win off the last over, being bowled by Phillip, with Bob Taylor and Paul Newman, the young fast bowler at the crease The first Taylor drove straight and scrambled two, off the second he took a single to third man, the third ball to Newman was hooked to mid-on, Taylor pushed the fourth ball square for another single. Then, Newman pulled Phillip's fifth delivery to long leg for four, and off the final ball completed a suicidal single, which took the score to 149 for eight. It was total misery for Phillip as he threw wide after collecting a ball pushed back to him. The throw, in fact, beat the man backing up and Newman was home for what looked an impossible run.



Alvin Kallicharran—an unconquered 102

Thus, it's Derbyshire versus Northamptonshire at Lord's, with the latter the bookmakers' favourites at four to five, and their rivals available at evens. Northants won the Gillette Cup in 1976, when Bishan Bedi was still with them. Derbyshire, however, have never lifted this crown, although they were finalists in 1969 Indeed, they have not won any tournament since 1936, which is going back a bit isn't it?

The Schweppes County Championship, too, is approaching a climax Around mid-August, Nottinghamshire, Sussex and Essex were the terminated ones in contention for what is the chief honour in the County scene. But Essex lost a vital game to Hampshire, which has dented their challenge to a certain extent The result was brought about by some ferocious bowling on the part of Malcolm Marshall, who took eight wickets in the match, and also contributed an unbeaten 75 in his side's first innings

Player of the week

Basharat Hassan

AS usual, there are several from whom one can pick the player of the week. But if one takes consistency over a couple of games into account, Basharat Hassan and Alvin Kallicharran are the exponents who stand out, although the fact that Ray East, the Essex left-arm spinner, captured twelve wickets in the match against Kent, which his side won, cannot be ignored.

But since one must decide on a solitary candidate, East's claims must perforce be overlooked as he was given the benefit of a real turner at Chelmsford, where a couple of years ago the Indians had Essex in dire trouble on a similar track. Moreover, East did not feature with distinction in any of the other games in the period.

So, the short-list boils down to Kalli and Hassan. The Guyanese left-hander, left out of the Warwickshire side midway through the season and now chopped from the West Indian squad to tour Australia, came back with a vengeance recording a majestic unbeaten 91 against Lancashire and then 102 not out in the John Player League versus Nottinghamshire.

But Hassan cut a dazzling figure in all the three innings he played, getting 58 not out and 79 on a very difficult wicket at Trent Bridge against Sussex, and then 120 not out at the expense of Warwickshire in the Sunday League.

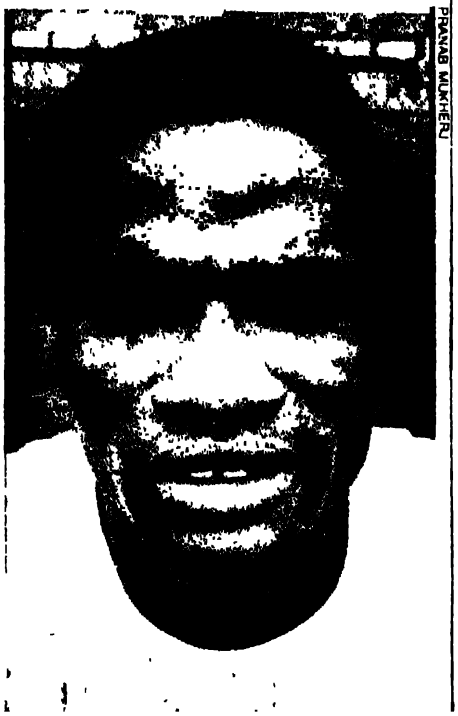
Sheikh Basharat Hassan is no newcomer to the County scene. He made his debut for Notts in 1966 and continues to be one of their main batsmen. 37 years of age and a Kenyan of Asian extraction, he has never been a prodigious run-getter, but inevitably produces the goods when the chips are down, thereby showing a bit of class. He has also tended to shine in adversity, and in 1977 scored a century against Kent entirely with the aid of a runner—a rare achievement in first-class cricket. And it's he who gets the nod this week.

Alongside this meeting was the absolutely crucial contest between Nottinghamshire and Sussex. The latter got the better of this clash by a weebit, collecting six points to Notts' four. But it still left Nottinghamshire at the top of the table with 212 points from 18 games—two more than Sussex, who have enjoyed as many outings (Essex have a match in hand in their tally of 196). It was a low scoring match, with Basharat Hassan distinguishing himself with knocks of 58 not out and 79 in the two outings, while Eddie Hemmings, the off-spinner, who has made impressive headway this season, shining with the ball by capturing nine wickets in the two Sussex innings.

Earlier, Sussex had defeated Derbyshire and Essex had triumphed over Kent to keep alive their hopes. But Surrey, another team in the running for the title, faltered by drawing with Leicestershire. The issue is still open, with all the contestants having to appear in 22 games altogether This, indeed, is the juncture when there can be many a slip between the cup and the lip. On paper, Nottinghamshire's remaining fixtures appear to be the least difficult But that leaves no room for complacency. Even a team at the bottom of the table can spring a surprise, and there are always the imponderables like the weather and the venue

Incidentally, Zaheer Abbas notched up his 2,000th run on August 17 and continues to lead the way among the batsmen The next best compilation is Javed Miandad's, who accumulated 1,485 runs and is third in the averages after Zaheer and Phil Olive of Warwickshire In bowling, Sylvester Clarke still heads the averages with 49 wickets at 14 97 apiece But Richard Hadlee with 81 scalps is by far the highest wicket-taker

Norbert Phillip—top scorer with 42





Graham Gooch—off colour again

Essex might have lost a bit of ground on the County Championship, but they are on top of the table in the John Player League. Till lately, level pegging with them was Derbyshire But this side lost to Yorkshire, while Essex duly defeated Northamptonshire to go ahead of their rivals by four points—they have 38 points from 13 games But close on their heels are Warwickshire and Somerset, last year's winners and runners-up respectively Both have 36 points and any let-up on the part of Essex is likely to be capitalised upon by either of the two.

The most recent round of Sunday games projected some outstanding individual performances Botham maintaining his astonishing comeback and blasted 106 off the Hampshire attack, while Alvin Kallicharran, dropped by the West Indies for the forthcoming tour of Australia, get an unconquered 102 against Nottinghamshire The day was also highlighted by Bill Athey, mainly a batsman, returning career-best figures of five for 35 versus Derbyshire

All said and done, an engrossing period in the English season, as with the Ashes resolved, attention has now focused on the domestic aspect

US OPEN

Symphony in brilliance at the Meadow

HARESH MUNWANI

A LOT of questions will be answered at Flushing Meadow this year The US Open, which will be played from August 31 to September 13, will help answer them.

Will Bjorn Borg, who has never won this tournament in his illustrious career, come good this time around? Or will McEnroe--better known as Junior--pull it off yet again? Is James Scott Connors going to register his first Grand Slam victory since 1978? Do Ivan Lendl and Jose Luis Clerc have it in them to dislodge the "old guard", the trio mentioned earlier? Only September 13 will provide all the answers

The US Open was shifted to its new site at Flushing Meadow in 1978, presumably to accommodate more crowds and to afford enhanced breathing space to players and fans by spreading the courts over a vast amount of acreage Forest Hills, scene of so many gallant battles, has long since been displaced The centre of American interest over the fortnight in question will be the new complex at New York.

Jose Luis Clerc—will his talent manifest itself at New York?



Jimmy Connors has by far the most impressive record in the US Open. He has won the title three times so far, in 1974, 1976 and 1978. He lost in the 1975 and 1977 finals and was a semi-finalist in 1979 and 1980. The amazing thing about Connors is that though he has failed to win a Grand Slam event (Wimbledon, the US, French and Australian Open championships) over the last three years, he has always managed to reach the semi-final stage, the only exception being his quarter-final loss at this year's French Championships

Connors is a born fighter, and the word that perhaps sums him up best is "intense" His shot-making has to be seen to be believed He plays every point with the ferocity of a tiger, no matter how far he is from the ball, no matter how badly placed he is, no matter how badly off balance he is Of one thing you can always be sure Connors will try his best For him, every point is a matter of life or death regardless of the stature of the tournament or the standing of his opponent In my opinion, at least, there will never be a more attractive player than Connors to watch

If there is a weakness in his game, it is that service of his A look at the comparative serving firepower of the top twenty players on the circuit would convince anyone that Connors has the weakest serve among them And, since winning the other man's serve is what tennis is all about, it is clear that Connors starts off with a distinct disadvantage It is under these conditions that one cannot help but admire his determination and that indomitable will to survive Connors is not getting any younger, he is 29 now and that is old on the circuit

This year, he has reached the final of five events, his only loss coming at the hands of Peter McNamara in Hamburg He was in truly great form at Wimbledon After running through the opposition in the early rounds without any apparent problems, Connors came up against Vijay Amritraj in the quarters After surviving a gruelling five setter with the Indian, Connors ran into Borg in the semis Connors won the first two sets but the Swede pulled off an incredible victory Indeed, several critics labelled this match as the best played at Wimbledon this year

Connors has continued to play with his old fire While assisting the United States in their Davis Cup tie against Czechoslovakia, Connors was in great form, humbling Ivan Lendl who had just scalped McEnroe in the first singles His recent loss in the first round of the Canadian Open was a great surprise but was no doubt due to the after-effects of a one-month layoff

A JINX That is what the US Open must be to Bjorn Borg, the man who has won practically every tournament he has played. In nine title attempts at Forest Hills and now Flushing Meadow, the Swede has

losing the final, again to McEnroe For the last three years he started his Grand Slam quest in great style, winning both the French Open and Wimbledon titles His winning streak however, has always come to an end in the US Open The irony of it is that Borg has reached the final of this event three times, in 1976, 1979 and finally 1980. In 1979 he lost to big-serving Roscoe Tanner in the quarter final, despite the fact that he had beaten Tanner in the Wimbledon final the same year.

Somehow or the other, Borg has never been comfortable at the US Open Temperatures in the region of 50 degrees celsius, high humidity, and noise from the nearby airport are some of the factors that unsettle him Besides, the surface at Flushing Meadow is the hard asphalt based 'Decoaturf', which is not Borg's favourite

Most important, matches at the US Open are held in the night under floodlights, and Borg has confessed that he has trouble sighting the ball under the glare of the lamps His defeat at the hands of Tanner is a point in question Players with big, booming serves have always caused problems for Borg at New York

Now that Borg has relinquished his Wimbledon crown, some of the pressure is off him. Borg says "This is one tournament I want to win Nothing hurts me more than the knowledge that I have yet to win the US Open" John McEnroe, Borg's main challenger, says "I am amazed that he has never won it He knows that as long as he does not win the US Open there will always be some doubt, however small it be, regarding his being the greatest ever tennis player"



Jimmy Connors—incredible competitor



Guillermo Vilas is he now a spent force?

IVAN LENDL has triumphed thrice this year in the seven finals he has reached Obviously, his track record marks him out as a future champion If Lendl has to win he will have to beat two of the top three His record against Borg and particularly Connors will not give him much encouragement and the same applies to Jose Luis Clerc

Vijay Amritraj reached the quarter finals of the US Open in 1973 and 1974 On both occasions he fell victim to the guile of Ken Rosewall Interspersed with his good performances this year are some inexcusable defeats at the hands of lesser ranked players like Rolf Gehring, Steve Denton, Raul Ramirez, Bill Scanlon and Ramesh Krishnan

On the plus side is Vijay's tremendous showing at Wimbledon and his win over McEnroe in the Canadian Open The triumph over John McEnroe is significant for Vijay because it came after six consecutive defeats Talent he has, but Vijay's big problem is consistency To win a tournament you have to string together at least five to six wins If Vijay reaches the quarters his supporters should be happy

The US Open in 1979 and 1980 was won by Super Mac The 22 year old John McEnroe has defeated Borg this year at Milan and Wimbledon, in addition to winning that dramatic five-set final at Flushing Meadow last year It was the first time in four years that Borg came out a loser in a five-set match Obviously this has convinced McEnroe that he can put it across Borg

Very few players could have played such an intelligent game as McEnroe did at this year's Wimbledon final McEnroe slowed down the pace of the game and very often was chipping the ball, thereby forcing Borg to generate his own pace if he wanted to play his favourite topspin forehand shots McEnroe hoisted the occasional lob to achieve the right mix and with his devastating service he was very difficult to stop

Borg is up against another hurdle Since 1974, no right handed player has ever won the US Open Manuel Orantes and Guillermo Vilas were the 1975 and 1977 champions respectively But on the other hand, Borg has always done the impossible Remember everybody said a player like Borg would never win at Wimbledon? The same man stunned everybody when by becoming five time champ at the all-England tournament

But McEnroe like the artist he is, will be waiting in the wings Shall we say that the scales are tilted slightly in his favour?

New Zealand's Springbok scrimmage

SAUMITRA BANERJEE traces the roots of a sporting controversy that could have far-reaching consequences

SOUTH AFRICA's Springbok rugby team has perhaps never felt as uncomfortable as it did on the morning of 19 July, when the aircraft carrying the 32-man team—including two non-whites—touched down at Gisborne Airport (Gisborne is a small provincial town about 280 kms from Auckland, New Zealand) The reason for their discomfort was not hard to find hundreds of demonstrators, mostly belonging to HART (Halt All Racist Tours), an anti-racist group which had been opposing the South African team's sixteen-game tour of New Zealand, were crowding the airport, shouting slogans, whistling and waving banners.

For the Springboks, it was not totally unexpected. the hostility, both national and international, had been evident from the time Australia—which had gone through its own traumatic Springbok tour ten years ago—first quietly tried to persuade New Zealand to cancel the tour and then openly opposed it by denying the South African team transit visas Undeterred, the Springboks flew to New Zealand using a 60-hour, circuitous route via the United States of America

But what the team faced at the airport was only a small indication of what was to follow their stay at the Sandown Park Hotel was more traumatic. HART members spared no efforts to make it clear to the Springboks that they were definitely not welcome They split up into three groups and approached the hotel from three different directions

The New Zealand police, expecting trouble, had gone in for massive security measures and as the demonstrators

New Zealand Army personnel erect barbed wire on the edge of Invercargill Rugby Park prior to one of the Springbok games



neared the hotel, the police swooped down on them, arresting 38 chanting and whistle-blowing demonstrators The violent mood had been apparent from the very first day.

But violence took a more acute, threatening shape on 22 July, the day the Springbok team was to play its first rugby match against a local side The demonstrators had decided to disrupt the game and early in the morning HART supporters, along with sympathisers from New Zealand's Maori population, began gathering at the centre of the town to prepare for a massive demonstration and a march to the rugby stadium

About 50 policemen had gathered at the stadium and as the time for the match drew nearer, the atmosphere grew more tense Finally, a short while before the match was to begin, angry demonstrators, about 400 in number surged towards the stadium The police formed a ring to prevent the demonstrators from entering but rows of the rowdies broke through and began tearing down the six-feet high fence surrounding the stadium Sections of the fence were flattened and this was the cue for massive police retaliation

The police began clubbing the demonstrators with batons and pushing them down an eight foot bunk Those who came in the way were simply flattened But anti-apartheid supporters, try as they might, could not prevent the match from being held While outside the HART supporters tussled with the police "like a huge rugby scrum," inside the Springboks lashed out against the local rugby team, defeating them 24-6

In New Zealand, opposition to the Springbok tour was evident at the outset Both major political parties in New Zealand had opposed the tour So had anti-apartheid groups and the Maoris, against whom the South Africans had once refused to play. Prime Minister Muldoon had even urged the Rugby Union Council of New Zealand to withdraw its invitation to the South African team in view of the mounting opposition to the tour

The Council, however, stood its ground and decided to continue with the tour For them, it was all in black and white· "Politics has nothing to do with sports," they said. (Mr Muldoon was to repeat the same words a few days later at London's Heathrow Airport, while justifying the tour to British reporters)

But the true sentiments of the anti-racist New Zealanders which had a clear ring of reality, were expressed by Ranginui Walker of the Auckland District Maori Council when he said "By bringing the Springboks here we have imported apartheid "

Mr Walker was not alone in thinking in this manner Most leaders of the Commonwealth nations readily agreed with him. The first to react was the Commonwealth High Commissioner by shifting the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference (due in September) from New Zealand to the Bahamas to protest against the Springbok tour An angry Muldoon retaliated by forecasting a gloomy future for the Commonwealth. "I thought they (the Commonwealth) were rather like the cruel little boy who pulls the wings off the butterfly and then cries if it can't fly any longer This is about the level of thinking of these people They pull down the Commonwealth and then wonder why it goes down "

The South African team's tour also led to the worsening of relations between New Zealand and the black African countries Cries of protest arose from the continent when New Zealand decided to go ahead with its Springbok plans. Many of the nations concerned decided to boycott the Commonwealth Games (scheduled for 1982) unless the tour was stopped. As a matter of fact, it was Nigeria which had led the move to shift the venue of the Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference The International Cricket Council too cancelled the New Zealand tour of South Africa for the same reason In New Zealand, four people began a hunger strike at Christchurch, 25 demonstrators stormed the office of the ruling National Party in Wellington and Maoris all over the contry chanted "*Amandla Knaweth*" (Let my people go)



Prime Minister Muldoon is grabbed by an anti-Springbok demonstrator

HOWEVER, the tour continued, and as it did, so did violence escalate. On 24 June, New Zealand Air Force planes flew police reinforcements into the normally peaceful university town of Hamilton, which was preparing a massive demonstration to greet the Springboks on the second leg of their tour

The security precautions were unprecedented in the history of New Zealand the airport had been cordoned off and as the team arrived it was evident that the police outnumbered the players by a broad ratio of three to one From the airport, the team was rushed to the hotel, which like the airport had been cordoned off by the police As the players shuffled uneasily into their rooms, the team manager, Professor Johannes Claassen, announced that the players, including the team's sole black player Errol Tobais, would not give any interviews and prompted a South African correspondent to comment "They are living in a laager " (Laager in South African means a fort) The state of seige was evident

So volatile were the demonstrators, that the rugby authorities finally decided on 25 July to call off the match between the Springboks and a local team, after reports had been received that a stolen plane might be crashed into the ground Chanting "Shame, shame " demonstrators formed a tightly-packed square around the stadium some time before the match was to begin They started pelting smoke and paint bombs at the stadium, while police in riot gear tried to prevent them

After 90 minutes of tussle a rugby official announced "I am sorry to have to make this announcement but the rugby game has been officially cancelled" Though it was a victory for the anti-racist demonstrators, the reaction in the grandstands was quite different The 27,000 strong crowd which had gathered for the afternoon of rugby were thoroughly disappointed and chanted "We want rugby "

Clearly, in New Zealand, where rug-

by is viewed more like religion than a game, opinions differed Perhaps, no single issue has divided the New Zealanders so strongly since their involvement in the Vietnam War

BUT the attitude of the Muldoon Government remained unchanged On 26 July, shortly after his arrival in London, in the face of a barrage of criticism, the Prime Minister declared. "Only the rugby officials can call off the tour, not the New Zealand Government. As the Prime Minister I can dissuade the sportsmen from playing against South Africa, but I cannot prohibit them That is the way we do things in New Zealand and that is the way I think you do it here " His mood was soon to change as the violence increased

In the meanwhile, the demonstrators switched their target from the Springbok team to the South African Consulate at Wellington On 29 July, a 1,200-strong group of demonstrators made its way towards the Consulate In from the Parliament building the group was stopped by the police and in a brief fracas some members of the crowd were sent reeling to the pavements, clutching bloody head wounds Some of the demonstrators were wearing helmets, but the police knocked them down with blows on their faces

Next, the police formed human walls across the road leading to the office of the Consul General Paul Lindhurst, a mile away. The demonstrators again tried to push past them, giving rise to a bloody scene outside the gates of the Consulate The Springbok tour, however, continued, with the South African team winning most of the matches

By 31 July, after his return from England Muldoon made a tentative proposal to shorten the tour in view of the gravity of the situation. On 1 August, Muldoon summoned the New Zealand rugby chief C E. S. Blazey for a meeting, to discuss the issue, but nothing came of it. As a HART member then complained. "Nothing can come out of a meeting where we are not present."

But by now, the Government had made its stand more rigid. No, the violence could not be treated any longer as a demonstration against racism It had now become a law and order problem and must be dealt with accordingly. Muldoon even gave the entire thing an extreme colour· the leftists, he declared, had taken over the demonstrations

"Technical fascists of the extreme Left are now the leaders What was originally a protest movement against the Springbok team with lots and lots of good people—idealists, clergymen—has in the last week or so become politicised But I can live with it and the situation will be dealt with firmly " A group of MPs in the ruling party gave a cry for stronger security measures and urged the Rugby Council not to shorten the tour

AND so the battle continued On 8 August, Wellington was rocked by demonstrators as the Springboks arrived for the second Test Stray incidents of violence continued On 13 August, fire destroyed the main grandstand at the rugby ground at Christchurch All fingers were pointed at the HART demonstrators and a section of the Press began turning against the demonstrators

In an editorial, the newspaper *Dominion* declared: "A week ago *Dominion* joined in the widespread spontaneous call for the tour to be abandoned, because it was seen as the only positive way more serious confrontations could be avoided .. Reassessment makes clear this is unrealistic and calling off the tour would mean a victory for the anti-tour demonstrators."

The tour was not abandoned, in spite of a delayed meeting between the rugby officials, leaders of HART and the Prime Minister. Like the previous meeting, this meeting too could not resolve the issue.

But what the tour of the South African team has done is to alienate New Zealand from the Commonwealth countries, while some African countries have even called this country a supporter of the racists One reason why Muldoon decided not to exert enough pressure on the rugby officials is that with the national elections just a few months away, it was hardly possible for him to forget that the last Prime Minister to go back on his word and call off a Springbok tour lost the next elections by a massive margin

But that is not all Mr Muldoon seems to have made an issue of not mixing sports with politics The South Africans seem to think the same When at a welcome meeting, the Maori Council Chairman Graham Latimer warned the team "You must endeavour to bring about changes in your country or face isolation," the Springbok manager replied· "We are not here to defend a political issue or any political stand of our Government. We are lawfully here to play rugby."

A helmeted protester lays an olive branch on the baton of a riot policeman just before the first rugby Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Lancaster Park



EXHIBITION MATCHES

A poor show

IF the phrase. "Morning shows the day" is any indication, then the Indian team that is going to play in the Merdeka is in for a tough time Before they left the shores of India they played three "friendly" matches, two in Calcutta and one at Krishnanagar, but failed to impress in any of these outings. One wonders what kind of training they underwent over the last six months.

It was indeed a good idea to stage two matches under the floodlights at the Mohun Bagan ground as the players needed to get accustomed to playing night football. The first match, against Railway Football Club was in danger of falling through due to rain. However, the rain stopped, enabling the match to be held eventually

The Indian team that played that day comprised Bhaskar Ganguly, Shyamal Banerjee, Monoranjan Bhattacharya, Sudip Chatterjee, Aslam Khan, Parminder Singh, Mihir Bose, Narendra Gurung; Xavier Pius, Shabbir Ali, Bidesh Bose They did not start too badly in the 4-3 3 formation, especially since the centre-half, Mihir, was covering a lot of ground and was moving up and falling back. He was rewarded for his efforts when he scored the only goal of the match Bidesh ran down the left flank and centred the ball, Xavier headed it back for Mihir to take the shot from outside the penalty box and the ball entered through the top left hand corner of the net.

There was only one other goal-bound move when Xavier backpassed to Parminder whose shot was fisted away by the RFC custodian In the second half, Prasun replaced Shabbir, with Narendra moving up as a forward. But even this hardly made any difference and as the match progressed, the performance of the team worsened In fact sometimes it looked as if RFC were intentionally holding back from scoring the equaliser.

The next match, the following day, was against Port Trust A few changes were made in the Indian team· Compton Dutta played as the right back and Shyamal Banerjee moved over to his original position as the left back, Parmer replaced Sudip, Krishnendu Roy replaced Mihir, Harjinder Singh came in place of Xavier and Shabbir again came back in place of Narendra Harjinder showed some of his brilliance he had exhibited here in the 1977 Nationals and scored the first goal when his shot from the top swerved in Though Shabbir scored the second goal, it was entirely the fault of the Port Trust custodian as he allowed the ball to slip from his grasp In this match again, the opponents played better football and could have scored a goal had not Bhaskar saved a certain goal when he collected a full-blooded shot from close Narendra came back in the second half, in place of Krishnendu and Atanu Bhattacharya was tried in place of Bhaskar

The third match, at Krishnanagar was against Mohammedan Sporting, who strengthened their side with the players who are in the Indian team Bhaskar, Prasun, Shabbir and Bidesh It was Mohammedan Sporting who shot into the lead in the first half and only a dubious penalty by Parmer saved the Indian team from total humiliation Prasun tackled Harjinder and the referee, S Hakim, who is one of the coaches of the Indian team, awarded a penalty Parmer took the shot which Bhaskar stopped but the former made no mistake on the rebound

Overall, Bhaskar played well in all the matches and it can be expected that he will save a few certain goals for his side But what about the defence? Monoranjan and Sudip were good, but the same cannot be said of the others. Parmer was too slow, Shyamal was nowhere near the form he had displayed in the League, and was beaten on a number of occasions. Aslam was unimpressive, but Compton, with his robust approach was successful to a certain extent He kept his zone well and sometimes moved up.

In the half-line, only Mihir impressed Parminder, for his unimpressive display, became the target of the public at Calcutta, while Prasun and Narendra failed to strike form and Krishnendu looked lost A peculiar thing about the linkmen: besides Mihir, all the others are left-footed players and it seemed that both Parminder and Krishnendu were finding it difficult to play on the right flank In the forward line, only Harjinder was impressive Xavier did not play too badly but Shabbir, the captain of the side, and Bidesh were a pathetic sight They could hardly do anything right

By and large, it was indeed a poor show by the Indian team Only the optimist would dare hope for a good performance at the Merdeka

A CORRESPONDENT Calcutta



D P SINHA

A bird's eye-view of one of the matches under the floodlights

Sportspeople

Profile in courage

CUSTODIAN *Mir Ranjan Negi* who has been included for the first time in the country's senior hockey squad to tour the European countries is a profile in courage India's number one junior goalkeeper, Negi worked his way up through sheer grit and determination. He had never dreamt of becoming a hockey custodian. While in school he was the badminton, table tennis and chess champion and later played football and volleyball for his zone as a student of Central School, Indore.

When he started playing hockey in school he preferred to play in the forward line and was so talented that some years later he even played as a forward in the inter-varsity tournament for Indore University. When he joined Indore University he was known as a footballer of class and it was then that he took a fancy to goalkeeping in hockey. He created a good impression as a custodian in his very first outing for Indore University and while doing his post-graduate course in English literature from Indore Christian College he went on a tour of West Germany with the junior squad as India's number one goalkeeper

When asked to comment on his meteoric rise, he said "Other games have taught me a lot about becoming a good custodian Soccer taught me how to kick, badminton taught me the essentials of stepping; chess inculcated anticipation and table tennis helped develop presence of mind"

Negi says that he owes everything to his parents who always placed sports on a higher level than studies He added further, "If we could get the special shoes for playing on Astro-turf (which players in European countries use) we would not get the burning sensation in our legs"

After his post-graduation Negi was invited by Customs to play for them This was in 1980 and after seeking an inter-State transfer, he played for Bombay in the Nationals. It was then that he caught the eyes of the national selectors and Negi became the second goalkeeper to play for India from the Indore region

As a student of Indore University, he had the honour of captaining the combined Universities team One of Negi's characteristics was his habit of running to and from practice session at the Indore cricket ground Shankar Laxman, one of the all-time greats, says, "Hockey is like opium to Negi So engrossed is he in his toil that he does not even notice the onset of twilight. Coming as he does from the hill area, he is endowed with the qualities of a born fighter



Maharaja Karni Singh with the three clay pigeon trophies he won in North Wales

The maharaja takes aim

ONE of the most colourful personalities in this year's British Grand Prix shooting events will be *Maharaja Dr Karni Singh* of India Winner of the Welsh Grand Prix at the North Wales Shooting School in Sealand and many other prestigious prizes as well, the Maharaja is staying at the four star Grosvener Hotel in Chester with his wife, the princess.

Recently a whole page in the latest *Who's Who* has been devoted to this skilled shooter who has his own palace, his own fort and zoo in his home State of Bikaner.

A versatile sportsman

HOW many games can one not only play but excel in? A local 20-year-old policeman, the namesake of the great Chandigarh-born cricketer would answer, "As many as one likes. What is needed is interest and encouragement". And true to his words, *Kapil Dev Sharma*, a product of the local DAV Higher Secondary School and one who had at one time played cricket in the company of his namesake, has proved his prowess in as many as four games—basketball, athletics, handball and cricket.

Initiated into basketball in 1973 by his school DPI, Kapil represented Chandigarh in the 1973 and 1974 Mini National Basketball Championships at Delhi and Hissar respectively It was with the help of topscorer Kapil that the UT won gold medals in both the meets. He represented the UT in the National School Games in 1975 (Dharamshala), National Basketball Championships for Boys (Calcutta 1976), Junior National Basketball Championships (Andhra Pradesh 1976), National School Games (Amritsar 1977) and Junior National Basketball Championships (Trichur 1977). In fact, the year 1977 saw him at the peak of his form when he played in the Pre-Asian Basketball at Hissar and was also selected as Chandigarh's best athlete among schoolboys

The same year he was introduced to handball He has since then taken part in four National Handball Championships at Nizamabad, Ludhiana, Srinagar and Jammu

In between, he started showing his skill in cricket also. Last year he proved himself good enough to represent Haryana in the Cooch Behar Trophy to claim five Delhi wickets in the semi-finals

Only five feet seven inches tall, Kapil joined the police this year. He has been selected for the national handball camp to be held at Nagpur.

He is also a horse riding enthusiast. He jogs about 25 km daily.

The man who served

THE sudden death of *Wing Commander K. L Khanna*, a sports administrator belonging to a more leisurely age, at Delhi in July, was yet another sad reminder that the breed of pre-Independence sportsmen is fast nearing extinction The Wing Commander belonged to a well-known family of Peshawar

Lovingly called 'Dipti' by his friends, Wing Commander Khanna was secretary of the Services Sports Control Board in the late Fifties when cricketers in uniform were a force to reckon with Those days seem to have gone for good—days when players like Adhikari, Gadkari, Dani, Sita Ram, Muddiah, Ganesan and Kunzru made the Services an unbeatable combination in the north

As secretary of the SSCB, it was Khanna's duty to see that every sport got its fair share of attention But it was no secret that he had a soft corner for cricket and all that the game represented in those days. Those were the days of garden chairs placed by well-bred officers for their ladies to enjoy both the winter sun of the north and the cricket under it The vast race course grounds, headquarters of Services cricket, were not quite the same after Khanna's exit One of the finest moments of Khanna's life came when the M C C conferred its membership on him in 1958

Khanna served Indian sport in various capacities Among the posts he held in his time were treasurer of the Indian Olympic Association and Manager of the country's contingent to the Cardiff Commonwealth Games.

News round-up

Champion Vinod

NEW DELHI: In the crowded North Delhi area of Subzi Mandi many a scrawny boy has grown to become a famous wrestling champion. As a 14-year-old, Ved Prakash became the youngest-ever Commonwealth champion when he won one of India's gold medals at the Edinburgh Games. Boys like him made Guru Hanuman's *akhara* a household name all over the country. Today, Ved Prakash, who is employed as a Welfare Inspector in the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), has turned coach and established his own *akhara* where he has already produced one outstanding boy champion in Vinod, who won a gold medal in the 48 kg category at the recent Elite World Championships at Colorado Springs, USA, for wrestlers under-18 years (born between 1963 and 1965). Vinod also won a silver medal in the Graeco-Roman style competition. Last year, Vinod had won a gold medal in each style at Stockholm

Ved Prakash, who himself accompanied the Indian team of six wrestlers, is justly proud of his pupil from whom he hopes bigger things in the future In all, the team won six medals, which included a silver and a bronze in the 56 kg category by Jai Kishan of Guru Hanuman's *akhara* The team also took two fourth places and Ved Prakash himself was awarded a plaque of honour for his work as a coach

Overall, India were third standings in the Colorado Springs competition in which, teams from USA, Australia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Canada, Austria, Puerto Rico and a few other countries participated

Men like Ved Prakash have a contribution to make to Indian wrestling, but it is high time organisations like the DESU came forward with equipping *akharas* with modern equipment so that more and more of our young wrestlers are familiar with the modern game before they step into international arenas

The *akharas* in North Delhi, which is also the home of Guru Hanuman's *akhara* thrive on the support of people in the slum *mohallas* there These people are the true patrons of the sport in our country Most others only pay lip service.

The Indian team at Colorado Springs, with medals won in brackets, was as follows:—
48kg— Vinod Kumar (freestyle gold and Graeco-Roman silver); **52kg**— R.G Sarang; **56kg**— Jai Kishan 56 kg (freestyle silver and Graeco-Roman bronze), **60kg**— Anand Prakash (freestyle bronze and Graeco Roman fourth position); **65kg**— Satyawan; **70kg**— Naresh Kumar (freestyle bronze and Graeco-Roman fourth position)

A CORRESPONDENT

Poor show at Moscow

NEW DELHI: No one had expected our athletes to bring back any gold medal from the Moscow International Meet. But it was disappointing to note that their performances there were poor even by their own known standards. Not one of them touched his or her performance at the Tokyo Asian Meet two months earlier in June.

The food might not have agreed with them, as one athlete complained, or they might have been travel-weary But these are not convincing excuses It only proves that our athletes are not at all accustomed to competing under conditions of stress

The tour would have been more useful had there been more competitions to take part in after the Moscow Meet for which our athletes left their training camps in the south on July 26—at least ten days before the actual event. Obviously, the Amateur Athletic Federation of India were unable to secure invitations to meets in Europe, especially in Germany. To be truly beneficial, a tour by our athletes should be like the ones cricket teams make. In a word, it should be a busy circuit Many a cricketer has established himself in the front ranks because of the opportunities available on tour Some of our athletes also are bound to discover their true worth if the opportunities are there. This has happened in the past—in the case of men like Milkha Singh and Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, for example It can happen again

The Moscow visit was under the Cultural Exchange Programme and at the last moment the party was increased from 10 to 14—one of the four new men included being Sabir Ali, the Asian decathlon champion The decathlon was not on the card at Moscow, but Sabir was entered in the 110 metres hurdles and javelin Unfortunately, the six-footer from the Railways had health problems immediately on arrival at Moscow and, it is learnt, doctors there had recommended his return home because of an upset stomach However, after missing the hurdles, Sabir managed to take part in the javelin, in which he could throw only 59.24 metres and was way behind in the standings Sabir's performance was at least ten metres less than what he is capable of "The Moscow experience was useful You get a feel of what good competitions are like and what it is to perform on synthetic tracks and runways," the railwayman from Haryana explained. "Give me a chance again and good health. I am sure I can hurl the javelin over 70 metres," says Sabir confidently.

On return home, Sabir quickly got down to training for the World Railways Meet in West Germany in August end The Indian Railways plan to send about 10 athletes, including Sabir and Gopal Saini, the Asian 5,000 metres champion Saini, along with A. Rajan and Gita Zutshi, will then proceed to the World Cup in Rome in the first week of September as representatives of Asia

Rajan clocked a disappointing 1·53 15 seconds for the 800 metres at Moscow where 23 countries took part, though not all of them sent their best athletes Gita Zutshi clocked 2 10 6 for the same distance in the women's division Outshining Rajan was Damodar Gowda, the promising runner from Karnataka, who clocked 1 51 72 The warning to Rajan is clear However, both Rajan and Gowda may still find good old Sriram Singh coming back, health permitting, and pipping them at the tape in one of the national meets in the coming domestic season

The following are the performances of our athletes at Moscow

Satbir Singh (110 hurdles) 15 10 secs , D Gowda (800 m) 1 51 72, A Rajan (800 m) 1 53 61, Sukhwant Singh (1,500 m) 3 59 96, Pavittar Singh (400 m) 49.02, Charanjit Bajwa (400 m) 49 96, Gopal Saini (3,000 m steeplechase) 8·49.18, Anokh Singh (3,000 m steeplechase) 9·09.54, Balasubramani (400 m hurdles) 53 61, Poonam Singh (10,000 m) 30:29.17, Sabir Ali (javelin) 59 24 metres, Balwinder Singh (shot) 15.26 metres, Gita Zutshi (women's 800 m) 2 10.6, Mercy Mathews (women's long jump) 5 52 metres.

A CORRESPONDENT

Patna outfit wins

PATNA: On Independence Day the Patna Athletic Association combined team trounced Calcutta's George Telegraph 4-0 in the one-day Kunwar Singh Shield Invitation football tournament final at the Moinul Haq Stadium here Incidentally, George lost by the same margin to mighty Mohun Bagan in the League fixture.

The Patna team drew with Railway Football Club of Calcutta In the Calcutta League this year, both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal failed to beat the Railway outfit It would be ridiculous to compare the strength of the two giant clubs with that of the Patna boys, but their results against George Telegraph and the Railway side can be compared to those of Mohun Bagan

Indeed, Birendra Chaudhury, B C.S Gurung and O S Ashok has made the P A A. quite an invincible side But still, they lack in confidence and maturity which might tell on their performance in the bigger tournaments

For Patna O S Ashok and Suraj Sahni scored one goal each in the first half and Birendra Chaudhury added two more late in the second-half against George.

SAMIR SENGUPTA

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Chief contributor to a Pakistan victory in only their second Test match was an opener who carried his bat in his team's sole innings and became the first player to be on the field for an entire Test match. Played against India at Lucknow—on jute matting—the match was won by Pakistan by an innings and 43 runs. Winning the toss, India batted first but could manage only 106. Fazal Mahmood's medium pace bowling claiming 5-52. Pakistan replied with 331, one of their openers batting throughout the innings for 124 not out. At their second attempt India improved on their first innings effort and reached 182 but they were still 43 short of Pakistan's total. Fazal was again their main tormentor, taking 7-42 off 27.3 overs.

QUESTION 1 Who became the first player to be on the field for every minute of a Test match—the Pakistan opener who painstakingly batted for eight hours and 35 minutes for 124 not out?

Less than five months later at Wellington, New Zealand, one of the South Africa's most prolific rungetters became the second player to be on the field for every minute of a Test match. An opening bat, he was returning to the side after a month's absence with a broken finger and he was unconquered on 255 when the Springboks declared at 454 for eight. In reply, New Zealand were twice dismissed, each time for 142, and South Africa had won by an innings and 180 runs. The opener's innings contained many polished shots and not until he reached 175 did he give a chance. His 255 not out was South Africa's highest score in Tests—subsequently bettered by G. Pollock's 274 against Australia at Durban 1969-70—and his partnership of 246 with A.R.A. Murray (109) set a seventh wicket record since beaten for all Test cricket. (Today the seventh-wicket record for Tests is 347 by West Indians D. St E. Atkinson, 219, and C.C. Depeiza, 122, against Australia at Bridgetown, 1954-55. Australia's highest seventh-wicket stand is 217, against New Zealand, 1976-77, by Doug Walters, 250, and Gary Gilmour, 101.)

QUESTION 2 Which South African became the second player to be on the field for an entire Test match?

A famous West Indian was on the field for the first 20½ hours of a Test played against England at Trent Bridge in 1957. After England had declared at a massive 619 for six, the West Indies, at the close of the second day were 59 for none. One of their openers batted all through the third day (Saturday), at the end of which the West Indies were 295 for three. The game underwent a transformation on Monday. After heat-wave conditions, thunderstorms on Saturday evening and on Sunday had drenched the ground. Nevertheless, the pitch was firm when play was resumed promptly to time on Monday. The West Indies broke down so badly that they lost 12 wickets in less than six hours. According to *Wisden* anxiety over the weekend rain rather than the wiles of Trueman, Statham and Laker—well as these three bowled—caused their downfall. The collapse began when Everton Weekes, trying to hook the third ball of the day, from Trueman, was a shade too soon and it went off the back of a glove on to his wicket. The opener, who had been at the crease since tea on Friday, proceeded to demonstrate that the bowling could be dealt with efficiently but the loss of Weekes seemed to demoralise the other players and England captured the last seven first innings wickets for the addition of only 77 to Saturday's total of 3-295. Said *Wisden*: "Trueman never made the ball lift or fly in a manner to cause alarm but he did the main damages in the first hour when in seven overs he took 5-11—a very fine piece of sustained hostile bowling." Sonny Ramadhin, who had Alf Valentine as runner, stayed 45 minutes while the last wicket put on 55, Ramadhin's contribution being 19. So the opener carried his bat through an innings lasting just over 9½ hours for 191, which included 26 fours. He was a tired man but again opened, only to fall at the end of another hour to a very fine ball that moved in late from Brian Statham. He had been on the field continuously from 11.30 a.m. on Thursday until 3 p.m. on the Monday—altogether 20½ hours.

QUESTION 3 Who was the West Indian opener?

Like the Pakistani and Springbok in Questions 1 and 2 respectively, an English player was on the field for an entire Test match, against New Zealand at Headingley in 1965. A left-hand opener, he became only the eighth batsman in the history of Test cricket to score a triple century—310 not out—behind Sir Donald Bradman, twice, with 334 and 304, on the same ground, Headingley, Sir Garfield Sobers, 365 not out, Sir Leonard Hutton, 364, Hanif Mohammad, 337, Wally Hammond, 336 not out, Andrew Sandham, 325, and Bob Simpson, 311. (The list has been extended since to Australia's Bob Cowper, 307, and West Indies' Lawrance-Rowe, 302.) The English left-hander set a number of records as he made his triple century contribution to England's 546 for four declared—enabling them to beat the Kiwis by an innings and 187 runs. In his 532 minutes at the wicket he hit the highest number of boundaries in any Test innings—five sixes and 52 fours. His second-wicket partnership of 369 in 339 minutes with Ken Barrington (163) remains the highest for any wicket by either country in England-New Zealand Tests. It fell only 13 short of England's highest second wicket stand against any country, 382 by Hutton and Maurice Leyland against Australia at The Oval in 1938, and only 42 short of England's highest for any wicket, 411 by Peter May and Colin Cowdrey against the West Indies at Edgbaston in 1957. His 310 not out is the highest score by an Englishman in Test or County cricket at Leeds. The batsman responsible for these records was making a triumphant return to the England team. After hitting a century in his debut against Australia at Lord's the previous year, in the second Test of the 1964 series, he had been left out of the fifth Test at The Oval and the England team which toured South Africa in 1964-65.

QUESTION 4 Who was the England scorer of 310 not out who was on the field for an entire Test match?

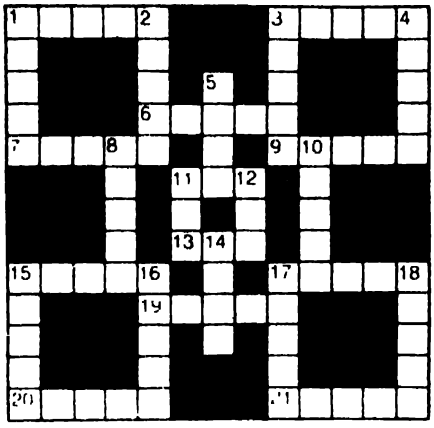
LAST WEEK's ANSWERS

1. Sir Jack Hobbs (3,636 runs), Walter Hammond (2,852), Herbert Sutcliffe (2,741) and Sir Leonard Hutton (2,428)
2. Wally Hammond. Cowdrey finished his Test career with 120 catches in 114 matches followed by Hammond and Sir Garfield Sobers (110) in 85 and 93 matches respectively
3. New Zealander Dick Motz in the second Test, August, 1969, at Nottingham. In the first Test, at Lord's, in July, Boycott made 0 and 47, being caught by Bevan Congdon off Motz for the duck. In England's preceding Test—the third Test against the West Indies in July, 1969, at Headingley, Boycott made 12 and 0, lbw to Sobers in the first innings and caught off Sobers in the second. (In the previous two Tests of the 1969 series against the West Indies Boycott had made 128 and 106.)
4. Bob Massie, Dennis Lillee and Graham McKenzie
5. Hammond

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

114



ACROSS

1 Sever in billiards (5)
3 Taking your own course is not always permitted in football (5)
6 Blanchflower, Hardy & Spencer played for this country house (5)
7 Teams form corners of boundary (5)
9 Colloquially having a problem to win (5)
11 Hoopsters association in the U S A (1,1,1)
13 Sobers the Knight (3)
15 Nightwatchman centurion (4,1)
17 English cricketer fails to hit (5)
19 North Indian cricketer ends with a grade of proficiency in judo (5)
20 Brainy sounding oar used over the stern (5)
21 Borg in tennis, Pele in football, Bradman in cricket, yield butter when churned in their respective sports (5)

DOWN

1 Tennis T T, cricket, hockey etc, have this in common (5)
2 A Task is lost in Karate (5)
3 Tinge of colour at latter stages of staying at the wicket (5)
4 Value of red and black in snooker (5)
5 Pierce this billiard stroke (4)
8 Christian name of hurdler who received the Commandments (5)
10 Ex-Indian football coach begins with Egyptian God (5)
11 To transgress at Patiala (1,1,1)
12 Light breeze relays important Indian sports events (1,1)
14 Shortened Indira is Christian name of bespectacled T T player (4)
15 Surname of 8 down (5)
16 Ex-English stumper sounds like directing a missile (4,1)
17 Grotesque ex-India hockey player (5)
18 From scrimmage in rugby (5)

(Solutions next week)

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Mulya

Paresh Roy, Jalpaiguri.
Q. What is Vengsarkar's record in Tests? What is his highest score?
A. Vengsarkar has scored 2384 runs in 42 Tests (a 44 98 with the highest score of 157 n o against West Indies at Calcutta in 1978-79

Subhash Mazumdar, Calcutta.
Q. What is Yashpal's birth date?
A 11 8 1954

Jeebananda Panda, Seraikella; Utpal Ghosh, Sarisha.
Q. What is the batting and keeping record of Farookh Engineer?
A. 46 Tests, 87 innings, 3 times unbeaten, 2611 runs, 121 highest score, 31 08 average, 2 centuries, 16 half centuries, 66 catches and 16 stumpings

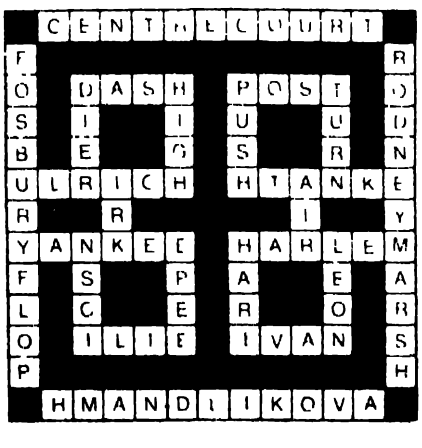
K V Thrinath Reddy and Ravinder Reddy, Karimnagar.
Q. What are Vinoo Mankad's dates of birth and death?
A. 12th April 1917 and 21st August 1978 respectively

Kuntal Dasgupta, Calcutta; Sandeep Dutta, Birbhum; Kum Asma Rafi, Goorakhpur, Ravindra T.Desai, Gadag
Q. What is the Test bowling record of Andy Roberts?
A. In 38 Tests he conceded 4,301 runs for capturing 167 wickets at an average of 25 75 He captured over 5 wickets in an innings on 13 occasions and over 10 wickets in a match on 3 occasions

R.K.Chatterjee, Uttarpara.
Q. What was the date, when and where first cricket ball was bowled in a Test?
A. On March 15, 16 17 and 19, 1897 at Melbourne

Vivek Dogra, Secunderabad.
Q. Why South Africa is not playing Test cricket?
A. South Africa is not allowed to participate in Test cricket because they follow "apartheid" policy of allowing only the white-skin players to participate in Test cricket matches

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 113



Gangaram Sapkal, Bombay.
Q. When India were all out for 42, in 1974, who opened India's innings?
A. In the second Test against England at Lord's and Sunil Gavaskar opened India's innings

Rupa Mitra and Raju Datta, Howrah
Q. When, where and against whom did Graham McKenzie of Australia play his first Test match?
A. In the second Test vs England at Lord's in 1961

Isar Ahmad Khan, Adri, Ajamgarh.
Q Please split up Kapil Dev's 125 wickets against each country
A. 42 wickets against Australia, 19 against England, 39 against Pakistan, 17 against West Indies, and 8 against New Zealand

Nabha Kumar Banerjee, Roshna; Joydeep Chowdhury, Shillong
Q. When and where did Sunil Gavaskar play his first Test and what was his score in both innings?
A. In the second Test vs West Indies at Port of Spain in 1970-71 when he scored 65 and 67 n o

Absar Ahmed Khan, Monghyr
Q. What are the lowest and highest total in first class cricket?
A. 12 is the lowest total reached by Oxford University vs M C C at Oxford in 1877 and 1,107 is the highest total piled up by Victoria vs New South Wales at Melbourne in 1926-27

Ujjwal Seal, Ledo
Q. When and where did Gordon Greenidge and Vivian Richards score their first Test hundreds?
A. Greenidge and Richards scored their first centuries against India in 1974-75 The former hit (107) at Bangalore on his debut and Richards hit it (192 n o) at Delhi

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS
Say which team/individual is credited with the following achievements
1 Only hat-trick in Asian Cup soccer
2 Only hat-trick in Asian Youth Football tournament
3 Most F A Cup wins
4 Highest total of goals scored by a side for one Santosh Trophy tournament
5 Highest number of individual goals in one Santosh Trophy tournament
6 Most B C Roy soccer trophy wins
7 Most victories in Olympic soccer
8 Most Santosh Trophy wins
9 Most wins in Merdeka soccer
10 Most wins in European Nations Cup soccer (Joint wins not to be counted)

ANSWERS

1 Iran (1968-'72-'76)
2 Burma (1968-70)
3 Aston Villa (7)
4 Punjab (46 goals in 1974)
5 Inder Singh (Punjab) 23 goals in 1974
6 Bengal (8)
7 Hungary (3)
8 Bengal (19)
9 Malaysia (6)
10 West Germany (2)

Chandan Goral, Durgapur.
Q. Who has taken highest number of wickets in an over in a Test?
A. M J.C Allom, K Cranston, F J Titmus and C M Old of England have captured a maximum of four wickets in an over

Ashanul Baruah, Lakhimpur.
Q. What is the Test bowling record of R G D Willis?
A. Before the Tests against Australia, Willis had captured 198 wickets in 57 Tests conceding 5,043 runs in 11,027 balls with 12 times bagging over 5 wickets in an innings

Suresh Thyagi, Jabalpur and Shah Noman Ahmed, Bara Banki.
Q. What is the Test record of Barry Richards of South Africa?
A. 4 Tests, 7 innings, 508 runs, 140 highest score, 72 57 average, 2 centuries and 2 half centuries
Santanu Das, Bombay; Sonu, Delhi.
Q. What is the Test batting record of Asif Iqbal of Pakistan?
A. 58 Tests, 99 innings, 7 not outs, 3,575 runs, 175 highest score, 38 85 average, 11 centuries. 12 half centuries, 9 zeroes and 53 wickets, average 28 35, 6 times captain

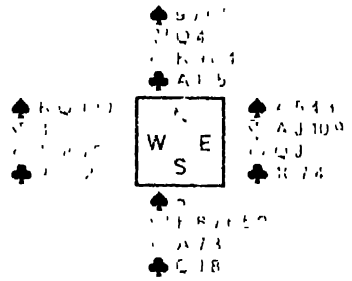
Sanjib Choudhury, Doom Dooma.
Q. What is the best bowling performance of Wesley Hall?
A. 7 wickets for 69 in the Test against England at Kingston in 1959-60

Anil Pareek, Jaipur.
Q. What is the highest score in Ranji Trophy made by Vishwanath, Hanumant Singh, Sandeep Patil, B P Patel, Salim Durrani and Arun Lal?
A. Vishwanath's highest score in Ranji Trophy is 247, Hanumant Singh's 213 n o , Sandeep Patil's 210, B.P Patel's 216, Durrani's 137 and Arun Lal's 117

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

I have written before about unlucky play but this year I took one in the grand style. I arranged to be out at the time the charity Bridge Cup was played why a bad play, you ask? Well, some year ago I took part and had a disaster on the first table, when I read the book of hands I found out that I was the bridge moron who had contributed the least score worthy earlier to the cause. So again this year, thank you! However, this was a hand that I could be proud to have played. Love all, dealer south.



Suppose that you had reached an ambitious contract of six hearts played by South with two opponents behind (perhaps opened at 2NT, four hearts, four showing 5+ cards and certainly best in both spades and diamonds; it looks as though you only need to find West with exactly five cards in one of those suits – then you can put your hand down on the table and claim your contract.

Unfortunately, that is how your worst nightmare could turn out. Suppose that East throws a small spade on your queen of clubs and then ruffs the third club with the ace of spades and your other hand.

Does that mean that the Trump the spade loser by ruffing with a spade, cash the top hearts, and exit with the last trump, leaving East to win the last trick with the nine of spades and be end-played in clubs? Not so fast, you do, but you cannot afford to lose a trump to the opponent in front of you. After cashing the top hearts, that is what you do, and you are left with only one trump.

But then you lead a club and discover that nobody would have dreamed of doubling you! You could have allowed the last club and lost only one trick, but it will make much more of an effort to remember the hands I submit. (Don't take that suggestion too seriously!)

Last week's quiz: With ♠ K J 10 9 8 7 3 ♡ 6 3 ◇ 7 2 ♣ 8 6, you heard your partner open two clubs (conventional). After you have given a negative of two diamonds (the obvious first move), your partner bid two hearts. Two spades is your natural continuation but after partner has not bid any 2NT, a belated jump to spades is well equipped to describe the hand well and shows a two-loser suit. Last week, you may remember, I suggested how to describe a one-loser suit. The point about these jumps is that they are useless bids. No partnership is committed to games – a cue bid meaning should be attached to them.

This week's quiz: How would you play the West cards in a contract of six spades against the lead of the ♣ K?

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q 7 5	♠ K J 8 4 3 2
♡ J 9 4	♡ A
◇ 5 4 2	◇ A Q 8
♣ A 8	♣ 8 6 4

Chess

Peter Clarke

In many situations in both the middle game and the endgame, a Knight can prove superior to an opposing bishop. A Knight, for example, penetrate the best positions and reach squares of either colour. It is quite another matter, however, when two Knights are opposed by two bishops, for in cooperation the bishops will generally be able to command whole sections of the board and create long range threats which can be combated by Knights only if they have ready to hand under their control. But there are many games do not find many open positions where a player each has just two bishops for Knights. To do so when positional factors are apparently balanced is, in fact equivalent to making a material sacrifice of at least a pawn. The following game illustrates the point: by the 9th move Black has surrendered his Bishop pair without compensation and thereafter is doomed to watch White build up the pressure and prepare to open up the position decisively. The break eventually occurs on the Q side, and ends with a neat mate.

White: **Boris Spassky**, Black: **Svetozar Gligoric.** (Game (Belgrade 1980)

1 P – K4, P – K4, 2 Kt – QB3, Kt – KB3
3 P – KKt3, B – B4; 4 B – Kt2, Kt – B3
5 P – Q3, P – Q3

In view of the slow character of White's system, Black could have spared the time for 5 . . P – QR3, creating a retreat for his black squared Bishop.

6 Kt – R4, B – KKt5; 7 P – KB3, B x Kt?

7 . . B – K3 was preferable. Now both Black's Bishops go.

8 P x B, B – B4, 9 Kt x B, P x Kt
10 P – Kt5, Kt – Q2; 11 B – K3, Q – K2
12 0 – 0, Kt – B1, 13 P – KR4, Kt – K3
14 B – R3, 0 – 0 – 0; 15 Q – R5 . .

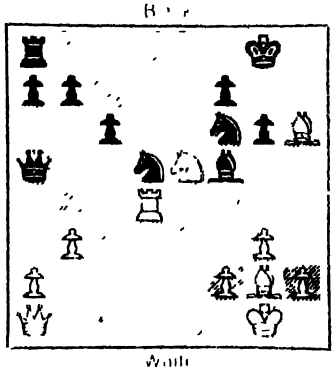
The first stage of White's plan is to drive his opponent to pass over defence on the King side. After that he will switch attack to the other wing.

15 . . QR – B1, 16 R – B2, K – Kt1
17 QR – KB1, QKt – Q1, 18 K – R2, P – QKt3
19 P – R3, P – R4, 20 P – B3, Q – Q3
21 Q – Q1, R – Kt1, 22 P – QKt4 !, RP x P
23 RP x P, P x P, 24 P x P, Kt – Q5

If 24 . . . , Kt x P; 25 R x Kt, Q x R; 26 Q x P, Q – Q3; 27 Q – R8ch, K – B2; 28 Q x Kt, and Black's position is hopeless.

25 R – R2, Q – QB3; 26 B x Kt, P x B
27 Q – R1, R – K2, 28 R – R7, Q – B7ch
29 K – R1, Q x P; 30 R – B1, Kt – B3
31 R – R8ch, K – Kt2; 32 R x R, Kt – Kt1
33 B – B8mate

Competition G482 [illegible]



White to play, and win. (In the event, the best three correct solutions sent to your chess page, in the form of this G482, *The Sunday Times*, P O Box Street, London WC1X 8EZ by June 14

Solution to G481 (Haldane – Clegg, London, 1978). (r3kbr1,pp1b1p1p n1n1pQp1 1N1p2B1/1q2N3 8 PPP2PPP/2KR1B1R – White to play.) After the sacrifice of P x Q at move 15, Black's agreed best method of maintaining material equality is 15 . . Q x Q; 16 R x Q, B – K2; 17 Kt – B3ch, K – Kt1; 18 Kt/B3 – B5ch, Kt x Kt; 19 Kt x Kt and the Queen sacrifice cleared White's KBP square and blocked Black's Q1

Problem No 1147. Solution next week
K Fabel (Third Prize, *Die Schwalbe*, 1980) **(8/1p1p4/1Pkp4/2bN4/8/5K2/4Q3/7n – 4 white men, 6 black).** White to play, and mate in four moves.

Solution to No 1146 (Jonsson). (3B4/7p/2pP2bb/2p5/2BN3Q/n3kp2/1NpR4/2K5 – mate in two.) 1 Kt – Q3 (zugzwang). (a) 1 . . Kt x B, 2 Kt x P (B2). (b) 1 . . B – K5, 2 Q – B2, (c) 1 . . P x Kt, 2 Q – K1

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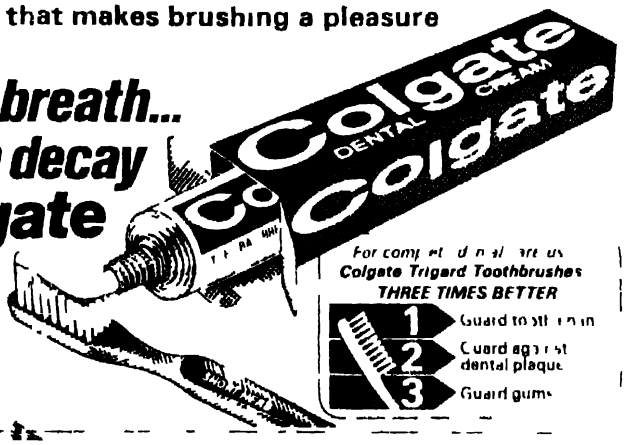
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The Syed Kirmani Saga

PATAUDI: Sunil Gavaskar should lead against England


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12 THE SYED KIRMANI SAGA
He has met with both success and disappointment in his eventful career, but continues to serve his country with distinction ASHOK KAMATH met the talented Indian wicket-keeper at his Bangalore residence

17 WHO SHOULD CAPTAIN INDIA?
Ex-India captain, MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI, opines that it was not the burden of captaincy which was responsible for the batting failure of the Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, so Gavaskar should be retained as the captain of India in the forthcoming series against England



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Letters to the Editor

Interesting

THE profile-cum-interview of Karsan Ghavri in the issue of August 19 makes interesting reading As an all-rounder, Ghavri definitely does not fall in the category of either Botham or Kapil, but everybody will agree that he has been an indispensable member of the Indian cricket team since 1974

Ghavri appears to be too modest when he explains his inability to bat in a time of crisis In fact, on more than one occasion Ghavri has batted with flying colours in moments of crisis, he did at Kanpur and Calcutta against Pakistan and at New Delhi against England in 1976-77

As for the allegations regarding throwing, we can safely ignore them because Ghavri has passed scrutiny tests arranged by English and Australian umpires We expect Ghavri to play a crucial role in the tour this coming winter, along with Kapil and Madan Lal, against England

VIJAY CHORGHADE, Pune

THE article on Karsan Ghavri was quite interesting However, I would like to add something more Ghavri says that his exclusion from the New Zealand-bound Indian team was a great shock to him Perhaps he has forgotten that selection is made entirely on the basis of performances in the matches preceding the selection and not on the player's good looks alone

The fact that he has not yet completed his double after playing quite a number of Tests puts him in the class of an ordinary player rather than that of an all rounder The reason he advances for his not completing the double is that he was not given sufficient bowling during the heyday of Bedi, Chandrasekhar, Venkataraghavan and Prasanna But the interesting point is that Kapil also played Tests during the reign of these skilful spinners and still secured many victories for India by his amazing performances Why, then, was Ghavri not given sufficient bowling? The reason is simple. this is due to the lack of speed, accuracy and strength which are musts for a fast bowler

SANJEEV MEHTA, Calcutta

Thanks!

THANKS to *Sportsworld* for giving us a report on the World Games The rest of the Indian Press simply informed us about the first four places in men's singles badminton with no report on the other sports

The idea of the World Games was to stage a non national meet During the opening ceremony, the teams were not paraded nation-wise Also, after an event, there was no national anthem of the winner's country nor was its flag raised Does this mean that these ceremonies, when held in the Olympics and other Games, cultivate a spirit of nationalism? The question assumes importance because similar matters are likely to be discussed by the International Olympic Committee at its Congress in September

As far as the spectators are concerned, these ceremonies are the most colourful aspect of any meet For sportsmen too, it is a cherished moment to stand on the victory stand with a gold medal round one's neck, to hear one's national anthem being played and to see one's country's flag raised

The other aspect of the World Games is to bring together sportsmen of non-Olympic sports

JAIMIN M BHATT, Bombay

Mockery

IF Derek Underwood and Alan Knott were recalled to the Test side only to break the records of Lance Gibbs and Rodney Marsh, then the future of English cricket must be jeopardised Similarly, it would be a mockery on the part of the English selectors if Geoff Boycott is retained in the English side simply to break the record of Sir Gary Sobers

C K SUBRAMANIAM, Chabbra

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ALL IN THE GAME



LOGO FOR LILLEE

And no one else

When you are the leading wicket-taker in Anglo-Australian Tests and an MBE to boot, you probably feel entitled to some special consideration Denis Lillee is certainly getting it, having received permission from the Australian Board to wear his own personal emblem on his head band (sometimes gold, at other times green) which has added a further touch of colour to his striking figure

Incidentally, this is the first time an Australian player has worn anything but his country's logo in a Test The emblem, designed by Australian cartoonist Paul Rigby, features two flashes of lightning, fitting symbols for Lillee, and was designed in support of his testimonial year

However, English players who wish to follow suit are unlikely to have much joy. The ruling of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) specifically forbids anything other than the England logo to appear on clothing during Test matches and there is also a rule that all clothing and accessories should be white.

RIGGED

Bobby comes back

Who said Bobby Riggs is dead? At 63, he is back, recreating all the hoopla of his 1973 battle of the sexes (when Billie Jean King defeated him 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 at the Houston astrodome) As we said, Riggs is back Alive and kicking

Teaming up with old pal Pancho Segura (60) Riggs was a winner in a mixed competition in a $ 15,000 winner-take-all challenge match The veterans downed 27-year-old Kate Latham and Stacy Margolin 7-6, 6-4, 7-6 Margolin, incidentally, was Wimbledon champion John McEnroe's ex-girlfriend.

But Riggs is not one to sit around He has already started planning his next campaign. "We have talked with many women pros," says Larry Riggs, Bobby's son and the guiding force between these gimmicky matches, "but almost all of them are busy I think they were actually afraid I won't rest until we challenge Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova That would really be a match to remember "

BORG'S RACKET

Some racket, indeed

Bjorn Borg—the one man tennis corporation with a hefty margin of profit—has got so big that Belgium is helping to pay the Swede for endorsing Belgian-made Donnay racket frames. It is the first time that a government has paid an athlete to play with a specific piece of equipment

When Borg's racket endorsement went up for grabs two years ago, Donnay entered the fray but later pulled out as the stakes climbed out of their reach The Belgian-based firm re-entered the war later, after it had secured a five-year, two and a half million dollar interest-free loan from the Belgian service for foreign commerce Thus subsidised, Donnay outlasted all bidders to win the Borg racket sweepstakes

In addition to the $ 500,000 per year that Donnay have promised to pay Borg, the Swede was guaranteed one per cent of the total profit from Donnay Borg racket sales Donnay also seem to have a special relationship with the government When Karl Snauwaert—president of the Belgian racket manufacturer of the same name—asked for a similar loan for his Vitas Gerulaitis, John Newcombe and Brian Gottfried contracts, his request was rejected.

Where will all this lead? Perhaps when Tracy Austin's daughter wins Wimbledon in 2001 she will be awarded the country of Luxembourg

ALL FOR A RUN

Doshi plays singles

We all know that our very own Dilip Doshi is one of the keenest cricketers going Just how keen he is, however, will be illustrated by the following—true—story While batting last month for Warwickshire with a runner, following an injury sustained at Hove, he committed the unpardonable Forgetting his disability for the moment, he set off for a single on his own—and was promptly run out

SUGAR-FREE DIET

The battle must go on

Sugar Ray Leonard, while training for his fight against Tommy Hearns suffered an eye injury during one of his training bouts recently Leonard, holder of the World Boxing Council welterweight crown and the World Boxing Association junior middleweight title, was forced to postpone a training session after a right hand punch from his sparring partner put a lump under his right eye But Leonard has stated that the injury will in no way hamper his preparation for the fight

TENTH TON

Zaheer keeps going

Another century by Zaheer Abbas, this time against Worcestershire, sent the statisticians into a huddle to compare notes The bespectacled Pakistani batsman, who has notched up no less than ten tons in County cricket this year, now has the impressive average of 99 95 This century, however, was one of the most forceful seen this year Need we say that it took him only 94 minutes?



CARSON GETS PLASTERED

By his nurses

Champion jockey Willie Carson, who sustained multiple injuries during a race recently, is still in hospital recovering from a fractured skull, among other mishaps .With his left hand in plaster, Carson was helped along one of the corridors by a nurse, which prompted him to comment that he would be remaining in hospital for quite some time since the female staffers were rather good looking

The brilliance of Argentine soccer

PALLAB MUHURY

THERE can be no argument that the most impressive soccer players in the world hail from that vast triangle of 1,100,000 square miles, the eighth largest State in the world named Argentina by Martin del Barco Centenenara Lying between Chile on the west, Uruguay and Brazil on the north, and the vast Antarctica on the south, this South American State has continually produced top soccer players for half a century as no other country ever has

Soccer was introduced in Argentina inevitably by the British colonialists The wider world of Victorian and Edwardian England allowed Association Football, still a respectable pastime for the upper classes, to spread on a remarkable scale Just as the royal families of Europe had their family ties spread all over the continent, so the upper classes of England had their contacts and connections even in the South American countries Colonies of British businessmen sprang up in the major South American cities—nowhere more so than at Buenos Aires with its country club and riding school for the new colonial-type aristocracy

Football of a kind was played by the Buenos Aires Club as early as 1867, when two brothers, Jack and Thomas Hogg put an announcement in the local English language newspaper *The Standard* asking for interested people to join But the pioneership was left to the Scottish school teacher, Alexander Watson Hutton, who arrived in 1884 This dynamic man included football in his English high school curriculum and in 1893 founded the Argentinian FA nearly single handedly

Meanwhile, mass Italian and Sicilian immigration to the cooler parts of South America, like southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina was taking place While the official language remained Spanish, the Italians were soon to form the largest single European group of immigrants in Argentina by the end of the Second World War Other European races like the Irish, the Welsh, the Germans and the Slavs from central Europe were flowing into Argentina too

It was against this backdrop that Hutton's team, renamed Alumni, won seven championships in nine years and at one time had no fewer than 14 players from the Brown races among its members

Thus, while the aristocratic Argentinians took their football from the British, the masses learnt the game from the French and working class Italian immigrants The Frenchmen founded Racing Club in 1905 after their Racing Club of Paris A few months later the Italians formed Boca Juniors in the predominantly Italian Boca district of Buenos Aires The Italian momentum saw the Italian employees of the British store, City of London, leave the staff sports club in their aspirations to be independent and give it an Italian name—Independiente

Meanwhile, the lesser-known Quilmes, founded in 1887 and Rosario Central (1889) were playing in the league and are in existence even to this day

In those early days many clubs, lacking in resources, had to struggle to survive For a few years Independiente played football on the wastes across the only Riachuelo River, supported by dockers and workers from the local slaughter houses

The league progressed, overcoming initial crises and in 1931 officially accepted professionalism In 1934 a reorganised Association del Futbol took over control of the country's soccer Since then the scene has been dominated by the big five—Boca Juniors, River Plate, San Lorenzo, Racing Club and Independiente—all of whom won the championship at one time or other

ARGENTINIAN players have always been exceptionally gifted, but their talents have rarely been properly groomed to obtain international success Numerous players have left the country to earn more money abroad Besides their preparation has been haphazard and luck decided whether the players could pull it off or not Consequently, apart from winning the World Cup in 1978, they finished second in the 1928 Olympiad and in the inaugural World Cup of 1930, on both occasions yielding to their neighbours, Uruguay Despite impressive results in the South American Championships, at the national and club levels, they have generally failed to live up to expectations

Argentina's Olympic teams of 1924 and 1928 had some great stars The great centre-forward Guillermo Stabile scored eight goals in the 1930 World Cup—a record unsurpassed for 24 years Then playing for Huracan, he was bought by Genoa, Italy, where he excelled, delighting local football fans In 1935 he moved on to Red Star France, and played for them till 1939 when he returned as Huracan and Argentine national coach.

Also in that team was the Al Capone of Argentine football, Luisito Monti, who used fists, feet and elbows to intimidate his opponents But the latter too left for foreign pastures, to Juventus, Italy, and played a key role in the Italian World Cup team of 1934 On the left wing was the 'slim, sleek powerful' Raimondo Orsi, who also followed Monti to Juventus where he was nicknamed 'Mumo' He was tremendously fast and skilful—an admirable ball player, in short One of his greatest feats was scoring the match winner for Italy in the 1934 World Cup final against Czechoslovakia Having feinted with his left foot, he took a swerving shot with his right and the ball dipped viciously over Planicka, the Czech goalkeeper The next day in front of Press photographers he failed to repeat that shot before an empty goal!

Also in the Italian winning team of 1934 was Guiata at right wing—yet another Argentinian The signing of these three players for Italian clubs was bitterly resented by the Argentinians In the 1930s Italian football was full of Argentinian players The Juventus inside right, Cesarini was also an Argentinian who returned after the Second World War to manage the team

The result of this player exodus was that Argentina deliberately came with their second best players to play the 1934 World Cup—Scared that the Italian clubs would buy off their stars if they saw them perform The Italians won that World Cup with three Argentinians in the team—Monti, Orsi and Guiata Pozzo defended their inclusion against foreign criticism, saying "If they can die for Italy, they can play for Italy" Once again, the Argentinians refused to send a team to the 1938 competition for the same reason

IN 1948, came the deadliest blow to Argentinian football in the form of the players' strike. Pederneira, one of the finest of Argentina's centre-forwards ever, left. Nestor Rossi, a splendid attacking centre-half, also left, though years later he returned to train and manage Huracan. Then, none other than Alfredo di Stefano, the 'blonde arrow' of the River Plate and Huracan left for Millionarios, Bogota, to play in the rebel league outside FIFA jurisdiction Later, in 1953, as the league was disbanded, he left for Spain's Real Madrid, where he became a roving centre-forward.

It is difficult to imagine how great his game was The only other player in the world to stand favourably in comparison with him would be not Pele but Holland's Johann Cruyff And it is not surprising that Cruyff admitted in his younger days that he always wanted to be like Di Stefano Thus Huracan claimed and very proudly too, that they had discovered Alfredo di Stefano, the greatest player the world has ever seen But mysteriously, he was not to earn the kind of fame that Pele, Beckenbauer or Bobby Charlton did

With him also went Hector Rial to play for Santa Fe and later for Real Madrid, Spain Of Spanish parentage, he was the unsung hero of Real's European Cup triumphs of the Fifties He had a hand in many of the goals scored by Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento Like Di Stefano, he too returned to South America and eventually came back to Spain as a famous club manager.

Thus, when we look at the Argentinian teams of the past years, are we going to give them any credit for the players with which they have charmed the world?

The players' strike saw countless other players leave Argentina to seek fortune and success in Italy, where a law existed till about 1962, which permitted them to play as 'Italians' if they could produce the requisite parent or grandparent When the law was withdrawn, Italy had considerable difficulty in fielding a purely Italian eleven and was trounced by North Korea in the 1966 World Cup

Thus when Argentina defeated Brazil in the South American Championship by three goals in 1957, their scintillating "trio of death"—Angelillo, Sivori and Maschio—was immediately bought by three Italian clubs—Internazionale, Juventus and Bologna

Omar Sivori was a supreme ball artiste, like most of his compatriots, with a deadly left foot Juventus paid River Plate £ 90,000—a world record at that time In 1961 he was voted European Footballer of the Year, and at the end of his career he returned to Argentina to coach and manage Rosario and Estudiantes teams, and in 1972 the national junior team.

Humberto Maschio, like Sivori, was also to represent Italy in the 1962 World Cup at Chile. But he returned to his former side, Racing Club, and played for them in their victory over Celtic, Glasgow in the 1967 World Champion Club tournament



Alfredo di Stefano back at the Real Madrid Stadium, scene of his triumph in the Fifties helping this time to direct a team of cameramen in a World Cup documentary for Venezuelan television

Of the three, Angelillo was not so lucky. Though he hit Italian headlines with his goal-scoring feats, and represented Italy in many internationals, he could not return to his native Argentina at the end of his career—out of fear that he would be imprisoned for evading military service!

Apart from this "trio of death," one Ernesto Grillo, an international since 1953, went to Italy where Milan had snapped him up Later, he returned to Boca Juniors to play and also become the junior team trainer

But preceding this trio, was a tremendously skilled inside forward, Eduardo Ricagni who arrived in Italy in 1953 He gave rise to a lot of controversy and scandal as he literally walked into the Italian national eleven—something quite unprecendented in world soccer He went on to play for Juventus, Milan and Torino Pancho Lojacono was another post-War Argentinian to go to Italy, where he performed creditably for Fiorentina and Roma.

Two excellent left wingers, Tito Cucchiaroni who represented Milan and Sampdoria, and Carlos Tacchi who did very well for Torino, Alessandria and Naples, also flourished in Italy

Naturally, the loss of such exceptional talent led to much bitterness It was to affect Argentina greatly in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups In 1950, Argentina withdrew after quarrelling with hosts, Brazil Four years later in 1954 they repeated the show by sulking during the Swiss World Cup, which was ultimately won by West Germany with an upset victory (3-2), over the all-conquering favourites, Hungary And when Argentina did enter the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, they had 40-year-old Angel Labruna (also of Italian descent) and Nestor Rossi, another veteran, back in the side Though they began by losing to West Germany 1-3, they reorganised themselves, and then destroyed Ireland 3-1 But what followed was absolutely inexplicable They were routed by the Czechs 1-6, and were out of the cup

This was a historic event, for it was followed by a total change in the Argentinian style of play which often amounted to bone-crushing, spitting and calculated brutality at national and club levels It was the famous Juan Carlos Lorenzo who initiated Argentina into this technique of power football And Argentina has earned much notoriety over the last 15 years—a period in which they produced some of the most villainous players in the world

In 1962 they entered the World Cup at Chile and with their motto of 'survival at all costs' drew 0-0 with Hungary, lost 1-3 to England and were out of the tournament Then after some rethinking, in 1966 they fielded a formidable team which was thought to be individually the finest and according to many recent pundits more accomplished than even their 1978 World Cup winning side Yet, they decided to be unfair and dirty This time they even reached the quarter finals after drawing with West Germany 0 0, beating Switzerland 2 0, but had one of their players, Albrecht, sent off the field for unfair play In the quarter-finals they met England

In goal, Roma was splendidly acrobatic, with two brilliant blocks against Perfumo and Marzolini Leading the assault from midfield was the giant of a player and captain, Antonio Rattin Up front, Oscar Mas, Luis Artime and Onega were deadly with their ball-skill, shooting power and magnetic interpassing They were ably supported by Ferreiro, Gonzalez and Calic

Rattin, derisively called "Rat" in Europe, was a player who could dominate the mid-field all alone—for Boca Juniors and Argentina For a few seasons he even played in a 4-1-5 formation for Boca, as the entire mid field was under his charge

But this magnificent player was to meet his Waterloo soon For after being ordered off the field, his team mates reacted to guest Di Stefano's promptings from the gallery, and

attacked the English goal with rare elan. England scored against the run of play with a Geoff Hurst header Argentina demonstrated the wastefulness of it all when it was apparent that with ten men on field they were the better team There was no doubt that had Rattin played full time, Argentina would have won that quarter-final match and perhaps even won the World Cup

QUITE convinced that they had been robbed, their club sides, Racing Club and Estudiantes sought to square up matters from 1967 till 1970 Against Celtic, Scotland, Manchester United (England), A C Milan, (Italy) and Feyenoord (Holland) the two teams enacted the most disgraceful scenes ever witnessed in international soccer Of course the architect of it all was Carlos Lorenzo His strategy of intimidation and anarchy had brought disgrace to Racing Club, Lazio, Italy, Atletico Madrid, Boca Juniors and to Argentina

Came the World Cup 1970 Mexico and Argentina failed to qualify, beaten by Peru The organisers heaved a sigh of relief This brought an ex player of Santos, Brazil and a heavy chain smoker—Luis Cesar Menotti—into the picture He greatly differed from Lorenzo in his views on soccer tactics and sought to bring about drastic changes in Argentinian soccer But not even his supporters, let alone his critics, had any faith in his words when he said very concernedly, "My country's football needs total reorganisation If we could win the World Cup the way I would like us to, it would inspire others to reassess the way we play the game—our basic philosophy Perhaps, it would stop us placing such reliance on violence and cynicism which are the tools of fear Argentinian football possess too much skill to need to be afraid"

In retrospect these were prophetic words indeed For, with Menotti as the manager of 1974 World Cup squad in West Germany, Argentina excelled, despite a pathetic lack of preparation Only a shaky Carnevalv in goal was their undoing Carlos Babington dominated the mid-field with Miguel Brindisi, both of whom were determined to attack with their transcendental ball skill Up front on the right, Rene Houseman was majestic and Ruben Ayala at the left, clever and dangerous

Though they lost to Holland and Brazil, it was evident that a "new look" Argentina was in the offing, shorn of their scandalous past In 1974, Ruben Ayala and Angel Bargas were doing splendidly for Atletico (Madrid) and Nantes (France) Osvaldo Piazza, another Argentinian was a mid-field wonder for St Etienne, France Enrique Wolff was busy for Real Madrid Jorge Carrascosa resigned from captaincy Mysteriously enough, Brindisi, Babington and Ayala would be missing from the 1978 squad Rene Houseman, failing to find his 1974 form, would be a substitute for Daniel Bertoni on the right wing

But that Argentina deserved their victory in 1978 can only be doubted by those who know little about this nation's soccer scene For this is what David Miller of the *Daily Express* wrote a year after the World Cup "It is usually said that a team needs at least five world-class players to win the World Cup, and Argentina possessed those five Fillol, a remarkable goalkeeper whose catching technique is considered all wrong in Europe, but whose succession of magnificent saves in almost every match was indispensable, Passarella, the dynamic 'libero', a defender with an attacking flair which recalled the illustrious Austrian, Ocwirc, Ardiles, suave schemer with a tactical intelligence to match his creative skills, subsequently bought by Tottenham Hotspur a fortnight after the finals, together with reserve mid-fielder Villa, in a breathtaking £ 700,000 coup, Luque, a volatile centre-forward with skill and speed and a tremendous shot, and Kempes, a talisman recalled from Valencia in Spain to inspire the team, match-winner, top scorer in the competition, another irresistible player at speed Add to these five the two above-average wingers, Bertoni and Ortiz, and an attacking left-back Tarantini, and there was every justification for Argentina becoming the sixth holders of the title in 48 years It is a distinction they have long deserved, having produced a richer flow of world class players than any nation except perhaps Yugoslavia, so many of whom have gone abroad, bleeding the game at home"

Now with the world junior soccer championship in their bag too, and with players of such calibre as the incomparable Diego Maradona, the deadly Ramon Diaz, Andreuchi, Bochini, Valencia, Fillol and Passarella will Argentina retain the two world titles?

The complete record

THE table includes matches won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points obtained in first division and National championship since the start of professional soccer (including all playoffs) by the 11 clubs who are still in the first division.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
River Plate	1828	1025	429	374	3783	2213	2479
Boca Juniors	1809	935	436	438	3430	2161	2306
Independiente	1814	884	452	478	3439	2371	2220
San Lorenzo	1812	838	478	496	3432	2531	2154
Racing Club	1794	784	493	517	3308	2548	2061
Huracan	1795	712	445	638	3099	2832	1869
Velez Sarsfield	1714	680	476	558	2770	2523	1836
Estudiantes de La Plate	1766	692	442	642	2973	2782	1826
FC Oeste	1558	471	429	658	2230	2762	1371
Platense	1291	401	364	526	1954	2284	1164
Argentinos Juniors	1182	355	323	504	1653	2031	1033

Fifty First Division Championships won: River Plate (16), Boca Juniors (11), Independiente (7), Racing Club (6), San Lorenzo (5), Estudiantes, Chacarita Juniors, Huracan, Newell's Old Boys, Quilmes one each.

Fourteen National Championships won: Boca Juniors, Independiente, Rosario Central (three each), San Lorenzo, River Plate (two each), Velez Sarsfield (one).

Fifty years of professionalism

ON May 18, 1931, professional soccer was instituted in Argentina by 18 clubs—11 of whom are still in today's first division—as a logical step to do away with shamateurism, the under-the-counter payments to players which were accounted for in their books in all sorts of ways, such as the purchase of tons and tons of sawdust for fields.

Though at present, River Plate head the table as far as points are concerned, they were almost not included among the 18 who started. This was because its members took a long time to agree to the step and today's powerful club could very well have gone the same way as the other clubs who decided to remain amateur with the result that they lost all their best players

On May 31, the first professional tournament was inaugurated. Boca Juniors became the winners, followed by San Lorenzo and Estudiantes de La Plata. With pro soccer, of course, began the big transfers. Soccer in those days, however, was more interesting to watch and a higher proportion of people went to the matches.

A future world number one

SARAJIT DEB profiles the new superstar of world soccer, Diego Maradona, the brilliant Argentinian

IN the midst of the pandemonium that took place when the boys of Argentinos Juniors were coming off the pitch after having been beaten in the youth championship final by Pinto de Santiago in Cordoba, one of the Pinto boys put his arm around the shoulders of an opponent and told him "You've got nothing to cry about One day you'll be the best No 10 in the world" That was eight years ago. That day has just about arrived for Diego Maradona

Diego Armando Maradona was born on October 30,1960, which means he has a long way to go in the game His inventive genius was first witnessed on the international front when he made his Argentina debut, as early as February 1977, as second-half substitute in a 5-1 win against Hungary in Boca's Bombonera Stadium Besieged by reporters afterwards, who wanted to know everything about his ambitions, Maradona had this to say "There's only one thing I really want—that my father doesn't have to work any more We're a poor family and he's laboured body and soul for us I don't want him to have to go on like that any more"

His background bears a marked resemblance to that of another great, or perhaps the greatest Argentine, Alfredo Di Stefano The poor home, the games on the wastelands, making a ball out of tin and socks because no one could afford the real thing, and practising those ball skills against a wall under a street light until three in the morning

It's a tough school from which Maradona has emerged. And, as everyone knows, for every one like him who makes it to the top, to the pinnacle, there are hundreds who don't. Hundreds who ignored their schooling for the gamble that football would make their fortune And lost

Maradona has never forgotten his family's needs After all, as he says, "Eight children take a lot of looking after." He is number five Before him were four sisters, and after him two brothers and another sister. Life must have been tough in the poor back streets of Villa Fiorito, the area in which Maradona was brought up He says: "If my parents asked me to give them heaven and earth, and I could, that still wouldn't be enough to repay them for the sacrifices they made" An early instance of that sacrifice was to buy him a proper football when Maradona was only three. He was so delighted he even slept with it tucked under his arm

The man who discovered Maradona was a 46-year-old bank clerk named Francisco Cornejo, who spent his weekends scouting for Argentinos



Juniors, the team from the Buenos Aires suburb of La Paternal. In 1969, one of his neighbours' sons called at his home and said "Why don't you come to watch my friend? You might want him in your team" Cornejo ran a boys' team in Villa Fiorito. The team was called Las Cebollitas and Cornejo used to bring together boys who could, at the age of 12, be registered by Argentinos with the Football Association

Accordingly, Cornejo went along to watch the local team run by Maradona's father called Estrella Roja (Red Star). He recalls "I knew right away that this boy could be a crack footballer He was only nine but he had remarkable skill for a child his age. Not only that, but he obviously thought about his game too I took him into my team, and we played 140 matches without one defeat"

In 1973, Las Cebollitas won a junior championship, and afterwards Maradona officially switched over to Argentinos Juniors He began in the ninth team, and they won their championship After that he went into the eighth team and then progressed to the fifth He played only four games before he was promoted to the third team, coming directly under the supervision of the senior staff. Vitamin tablets and injections became the order of the day to try to build his stamina, for the only fear was that his build and lack of height might hinder his progress In fact, it wasn't his fitness which delayed his debut, but his mischievous tongue.

IN the autumn of 1976, while sitting on the Argentinos substitutes' bench during the first team's game against Velez Sarsfield, Maradona was appalled by the refereeing As the officials walked out after the game the 16-year-old boy was unwise enough to say sarcastically "You'll get plenty of international matches like that, won't you?" That cost him a five-week suspension But once available again, Maradona was told by Argentinos' coach, Juan Carlos Montes, that he would be playing for the first team, not just sitting around

So, on October 20, 1976, 10 days before his 16th birthday, Diego Armando Maradona made his League debut as a substitute against Talleres of Cordoba And what a start! Hardly had he been on the pitch a few minutes, than he was cheekily playing the ball through the legs of the Talleres players Maradona had arrived!

Only four months later, Cesar Luis Menotti named him in the national squad for a friendly match against Hungary "He's just in for the experience," Menotti told the newspaper, but secretly he had other plans Calling Maradona aside, he told him: "If everything goes well, you'll play part of the game Tell your parents if you like, but don't dare tell the newspaper"

And so, in the 65th minute, Maradona became Argentina's youngest-ever international and gained his first surprise taste of international football as a substitute for Leopold Luque "When I went onto the field I was scared to death," he later admitted "But immediately Gatti cleared the ball out to Gallego, and he gave me a pass and after that I stopped worrying" Maradona later laid on a goal for Rene Houseman with a beautiful through pass which bisected the Hungarian defence He gained three more caps in the run-up to the World Cup finals, but then came the period of unrest The World Cup exclusion was the first setback, the on-off transfer to Sheffield United the second

It was a stunning decision by Menotti to exclude him from the final squad Menotti had worked until the deadline with 25 players, who all knew that three would be dropped "I didn't like making that decision It really hurt me," said Menotti. "I just hoped that the boys would understand But I understand too that they might say things in the heat of the moment--that Menotti used them, and so on I told all the players that even in that case I wouldn't feel any the less respect for their ability as footballers' Maradona was one of the three to be dropped

Later, Maradona said "I was so upset, I just wanted to run home and

hide Now that I have had time to think it all out properly I understand Menotti's reasons He was right, I was too young and I hadn't had the kind of experience to cope with the pressures of a World Cup, or a long concentration But at the time " At the time Maradona stormed out of the camp, but realised, having done so, that all he wanted to do most dearly was play for Argentina in the forthcoming World Cup tournaments The problem was How to make his peace with Menotti?

By coincidence, a top European sports goods firm was trying to persuade Maradona to sign a contract with them He was uncertain What would he be taking on? Would his team-mates be jealous and should he negotiate for them too? Maradona decided there was only one man who could advise him—Menotti They arranged to meet at the Argentine FA headquarters and he found, just as the manager had promised, that there was no animosity over his reaction to the World Cup exclusion

So, it was boots which reconciled Maradona and Menotti, the same boots "which I couldn't afford when I was young Now new makes are brought to me every day to try People even pay me to wear them." That is what is called destiny

Indeed, unknown to Maradona, Menotti had long had his plans clearly mapped out for the Argentinos Juniors inside left. First would come the South American Youth Championship, then the full national side's tour of Europe, then hopefully the World Youth Cup in Japan

Coming to the second setback, the on-off transfer to Sheffield United. Sheffield had virtually agreed to a £450,000 fee for Maradona as well as the centre forward of their team, Carlos Fren But, as Maradona said· "Everything had been agreed on for the future of myself and my family I would get more than £150,000 Fren was as pleased as me. All the other players congratulated us Then our club president, said no It was all off I didn't understand The club would get £500,000 they badly needed as well as play three games in England "

Maradona threatened to walk out on the club, "unless they make up to me some of the cash I'll lose " Publicly, the club president blamed the decision not to sell on an AFA directive prohibiting transfers abroad of 40 young players born after July 1959. This obviously included Maradona But in fact the list had not been issued until after transfer talks had been concluded

In the League, Maradona continued to show consistent brilliance Not only was he the pivot in the midfield, working and scheming, creating all the openings, but he ended the metropolitan championship as the top scorer with 22 goals, exactly a third of his team's tally Some of them were simply brilliant efforts from the midfield after beating several opponents He was chiefly responsible for putting his modest team into an honourable fifth position That was 1978

Italy s Tardelli (dark shirt) successfully marked Maradona for most of the match between Argentina and the Rest of the World but he could not stop him from scoring here to put his side ahead



But the transfer talks handn't concluded. San Lorenzo made one bid and were rejected, Boca Juniors (his present club) made another and Rosario yet another, then came Napoli from Italy, and finally, and most seriously, Barcelona What decided the Spaniards was Maradona's brilliance in the South American Youth Championship Argentina finished runners-up to Uruguay to clinch a qualifying place for Tokyo, but Maradona was without doubt the number one player of the tournament

In the opening game against Peru, which Argentina won 4-0, he scored a magical goal, dribbling three-quarters of the length of the ground, past one man after another, before beating the goalkeeper with a fierce shot on the near post Even the Uruguayan fans chanted his name during the final Later, at Tokyo, he led his country to win the Junior World Cup

ONCE back in Buenos Aires, Maradona was plunged into more intrigue Barcelona vice-president Casaus made an offer of £500,000 to Argentinos "We won't even bother to consider it," said the president of the club, Consoli So Casaus went round to the back door and talked to Maradona He offered him a home for his family, a car and £700,000 for four years Maradona instantly asked Consoli why he hadn't been told of Barcelona's interest and why the club was not ready at least to negotiate Consoli reluctantly, agreed to talk to Casaus "We want one million pounds for Maradona," he said, hoping that would scare off the Spaniard But he hoped in vain "Right," said Casaus, "we can pay that over a year, if you agree " Consoli didn't agree

Meanwhile the fans grew restive and Maradona felt obliged to explain himself "I'd love to stay and play for the national team, but I hope the fans understand that if an offer comes along which would ensure security for myself and my family for life, then I would have to take it " Meanwhile, the 1979 season commenced and once again, for the second year running, Maradona headed the goal-getters' list with 14 goals, also becoming America's Footballer of the Year. The next season saw him taking this title yet again So brilliant was his performance, that the choice was automatic and therefore no surprise. He finished with 495 points, and was followed by Zico of Brazil with 292 points and Fillol (River Plate, Argentina) with 120 points The difference was indeed so pronounced

Maradona has been a regular in the Argentina team after that fateful exclusion from the World Cup squad. He was a key figure in the match that took place exactly a year after they had won the World Cup, when they played against the Rest of the World. He went to play at Wembley against England last year where the youngster had been given the kind of publicity build-up otherwise reserved for a Pele, a Di Stefano or a Cruyff But as the match progressed, Maradona proved that it was not undeserved. On that tour, he





Maradona (far right) scoring against Brazil in the Gold Cup

scored a hat trick against Austria and clearly maintained the image he had created for himself with his devastating displays against Holland and Scotland, on Argentina's tour the previous year

At the end of the 1980 season, he participated in the Gold Cup, which was won by hosts Uruguay There, Argentina's over-reliance on Maradona, especially in attack became evident When he failed to function, so did the Argentine attack Against West Germany he was heavily marked and admitted later that Briegel, a former decathlete, was one of the two men who had marked him better than anybody in his life (the other was Italy's Tandelli, playing for the Rest of the World against Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1979) It was not until Maradona got away from his man in the final stages that Argentina's attack got through. Against Brazil, he hung back too much, but scored Argentina's only goal, off an outstanding run up the right when he beat a couple of defenders before shooting hard on the run, on one of the few occasions he went up into attack. He was the only player to occasionally put the Brazilian defence into difficulty, either on his own or with deep passes

Hardly surprising, therefore, that offers started flowing in yet again at the start of this season This time, Boca Juniors clinched the deal for 16 months on loan until the 1982 World Cup in exchange for which Boca Juniors agreed to pay his club Argentinos Juniors (a) 2.5 million dollars for the loan of the player, (b) settle two debts which Argentinos Juniors had with a finance company and the Argentina Football Association for a total of 1.5 million dollars, (c) pay the players 15% transfer and the FA's levy fee, (d) transfer four players and loan two more, all first teamers, whose combined value can be estimated in the region of 2 million dollars and (e) agree not to line up the player in the League matches against Argentinos Juniors

It appeared that Maradona would recieve two million dollars from the club during the 16-month period 600,000 dollars as a signing fee, another 500,000 four months later, a monthly salary of 60,000, 10,000 for every friendly match he plays inside the country, 20% of the club's fee for friendly matches abroad, 700 dollars a point while Boca Juniors are in the first two places and 150 dollars if they are lower, with the stipulation that the difference will be paid if they finish among the top places

He would also be at liberty to arrange his own publicity contract with the club, only taking 20% if this involve wearing the club's shirt This means Maradona would cost Boca Juniors around eight million dollars in 16 months Even if he plays 100 matches (including friendly ties), this works out 80,000 dollars a match

The same day Maradona signed along the dotted line, he turned out in an exhibition match in a packed Boca Juniors Stadium in which he played for Argentinos Juniors in the first half and Boca Juniors in the second He followed this up with his first appearance in the first division when he helped his new team beat Talleres Cordoba 4-1, scoring two goals from penalties

Till the time of writing, his club is leading the League table, Maradona having scored 13 goals, and helping his colleague, the veteran Brindisi to head the table with 15. Brindisi, and Maradona combine to form a lethal midfield combination and both have helped their team to remain in the lead A few flashes of brilliance along with a couple of goals from Maradona are generally enough to guarantee a win But he is generally heavily marked and continually brought down He has learnt the trick of how to throw himself at the penalty box and earn spot kicks The real importance of Maradona is perhaps being felt by his old club, Argentinos Juniors, who have again reverted to what they were without him, a modest club struggling to remain in the first division, while last season they were the runners-up

Menotti, the Argentina national coach says of Maradona "He's the direct heir to all the great Argentine players of the past You can see something of our old football in his very movement The youngsters are surprised by his artistry, the older fans see in him a Sivori He's not one of those players who feel they need their personal hairdresser in the changing rooms Nor is he always sounding off to the newspapers As far as football goes, sometimes he's a bit slow to go and look for the ball, but Pele was the same at his age this comes with time Diego has the potential to become the world's number one

'For me, he recalls a mixture of many of the talents of both Pele and Puskas But he's not a second one of either He's Maradona, his own man I hope he stays that way. I hope he keeps his style, maintains his character. I once said of Maradona that he reminded me in certain ways of the young Pele Everybody twisted my words and said I believed Maradona to be the new Pele. That's not right. This boy is the First Maradona."

Perhaps, then, the Eighties will be the Maradona decade

The Syed Kirmani Saga

It has not exactly been roses all the way for the wicketkeeper from Bangalore. ASHOK KAMATH met him to find out what the last few years have meant for the man who has experienced success and disappointment in equal proportions

WHEN he was studying in the fourth standard, boxing fired his imagination. Naturally. It happened to be the most popular sport in his school and the school's heroes were its boxers. Before long, our hero-to-be donned a pair of boxing gloves and got into the ring to do battle.

Given his natural sporting instincts—which first surfaced in sport forms like gilli-danda, marbles and kite flying—it was the most logical thing to do. The farthest he got in boxing was a "Best Loser" sash in the sixth standard. With his changing of schools the following year, he hung up his boxing gloves.

Years later, a pair of gloves would take him places. Only, these gloves were not of the variety graded in ounces but the ones used for keeping wickets in a less sanguine sport called cricket. In this department he is considered the owner of one of the best pairs of gloved hands around. And, paradoxically enough, Syed Mujtabha Hussain Kirmani made his mark in the lower grades of cricket not so much by his performances behind wickets as in front of them. But more of that a little later.

Kirmani was born in Pudupet, Madras, on 29 December, 1952. He did his first two years of schooling at the All-Saints' High School, Malapalli, Hyderabad and by the time he was six, the family moved to Bangalore where his father was transferred. (Papa Kirmani was a Government servant, climaxing his career as a personal assistant to the then Deputy Finance Minister, Mrs Shamshauddin.)

When the Kirmanis moved into the Jayamahal Extension in 1958, the place had hardly any "development" (in the town planning sense) The area was still being "reclaimed" with civilisation edging its way in slowly In that sense, the Kirmanis were trailblazers.

Nearby was St. Germain's High School, to which residents of the area invariably sent their children. The Kirmani of our story went to this school It was this school, which we referred to in the beginning, that saw young Kirmani graduate from gilli-danda, marbles, tops and kites to boxing

At the standard seven stage, "Kiri" joined the school his elder brother had enrolled in—St Joseph's Indian High School. Boxing receded into the background, a little later disappearing completely from his scheme of things. The indigenous sport forms continued—each one attracting him during the season but never throughout the year.

Then, along came this "guru" of the colony, a youngster named Udayakumar Shetty. Recalls Kirmani "This chap Uday, who is now a doctor in England, used to impress us a lot because he owned the first pair of cricket boots we got to see Further, he was a fast bowler, a real terror for us and because he had a very long run-up to the wicket, we called him our own Wes Hall.

"Like most youngsters, we played our cricket with a tennis ball. A little later, we employed a ball made of cork—cricket balls did not last that long and they were too expensive for us to buy"

Standing behind the wickets with someone operating with a cork ball is not something everyone likes to do. For a youngster, such an occupation requires guts bordering on recklessness. And the person who opted for the job then was, as history tells us, the one to wear the Indian blazer in the same capacity. "I used to stand well behind and use bricks to stop the ball", says Kiri.

In school, things were different. Young Kirmani took part in athletic competitions, hockey and cricket. He instinctively took the wicket-keeper's gloves and as a dashing middle-order bat, he walked into the school "Under-12" team.

"I was above average in three disciplines and divided my time between



Behind the close shave

WHOEVER called the new-look Kirmani the "Yul Brynner of Indian cricket" was not being fair either to Kirmani or to the legendary shaven-headed actor himself (It is a different matter altogether that Kirmani likes the metaphor).

But let us explain why Kirmani has adopted the new look Immediately after the twin tour to Australia and New Zealand, he went to Dubai to play a sponsored tournament and decided that since he was so close to Mecca-Medina, he might as well make the trip Even though it was not the Haj season, he went through all the protocol just as a regular Haj visitor would. The upshot of the incident was that he was immensely pleased with the results and decided to let the shaven head stay.

"I intend to play the forthcoming series against England clean-shaven My beard, of course, will remain."



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Kirmani acknowledges the cheers after reaching his maiden Test century

athletics, hockey and cricket. Then, one day, my cricket coach, the well-known Keki Tarapore, called me aside and told me to make up my mind about which sport I really wanted to excel in. He also advised me to take up cricket as he said I could do well if I concentrated. At that moment, I don't think I really took his advice seriously I wanted to have the best of three worlds'. Then came the Cottonian School Shield where I turned out for St. Joseph's Indian High School in both juniors (Under-12) and the seniors.

"Thereabouts, I decided that cricket was going to be my game By the time I was in standard nine I found myself in the reserves for the State Schools team and the next year I captained the Mysore (as Karnataka was then known) State School team", recounts Kirmani.

THE boy who kept wickets and got runs by hitting hard worked his way into the South Zone Schools team purely as a batsman In fact, he never kept wickets outside his school team at that level of cricket.

From South Zone Schools in the Cooch-Behar came his selection for the Indian Schoolboys' team against the Australian Schoolboys' in the 1966-67 home series The only gloves he wore for the series were batting gloves. (There were other more talented boys around who got themselves picked mainly for their wicketkeeping abilities). Coming in at number four and sometimes at number five Kiri got plenty of runs—centuries in the first two (Madras and Hyderabad) of the five Tests and a 78 at Bombay

Did all the furious sports activity take its toll on his academic pursuits? Kirmani replies: I was always average as a student, never brilliant but at the same time I never repeated a year until standard ten. Around standard eight, the time when I became regularly involved in sports, I suffered on the academic side And in standard ten, I decided to lose a year to make myself eligible for the Indian Schoolboys' tour of the United Kingdom. That was in the 1967 series.

The Indian Schoolboys' outfit which toured England was, without the least doubt, the best set of youngsters who have figured at that level of cricket. The team was led by Ajit Naik and among the other boys who were to make the Test grade were the Amarnath brothers—Surinder and Mohinder—along with Kirmani. Those who did well in domestic cricket later were Rakesh Tandon, Laxman Singh, Raja Mukherjee and others.

For the record, it may be recalled that the Indian Schoolboys' team had the distinction of being the only team—senior or junior—which toured England without losing a single match. Kirmani was the vice-captain of the team and this time again he was chosen only for his batting capabilities and not for his feats behind the wickets. In fact, there were as many as four wicket-keepers in the sixteen—A A.S.

Asif and Karmakar, the official glovemen along with Raja Mukherjee and Kirmani, wicket-keepers in their own right but chosen purely as batsmen Kirmani got a century in the opening match of that tour, and finished fourth in the batting averages

If one goes into this phase of Kirmani's cricketing career in great detail it is to bring home the fact that as he went up the ladder he was doing less 'keeping and more fruitful batting to retain his place, only to complete a dramatic reversal of roles a short while later

On his return from the successful tour of England, schoolboy Kirmani set about finishing his SSLC (school final) Later, he got his BA degree via a correspondence course Came the offer from State Bank and he grabbed it

After his performances with the bat in local competitions, the State selectors could not ignore him for long He made his Ranji Trophy debut that year (1968 69) and had an uneventful match against Tamil Nadu (K R Rajagopal was then keeping wickets for Mysore State)

After two matches that season without having produced any noteworthy performances with the bat, Kirmani was ignored for the following season To compound matters, Test star Budhi Kunderan came back to Mysore and made himself available for that State after finding that the Bombay selectors had settled for Farokh Engineer (Finding himself unsure about employment in the Mysore State team, Rajagopal migrated to neighbouring Tamil Nadu to stake his claims there)

Around the end of the 1970-71 season, Kirmani as understudy to Kunderan, found himself accommodated in the final XI Recalls Kirmani "Budhi was to migrate to Australia at the end of the season and in our semi-final match against Bombay at Bombay, he told the selectors that since that match was likely to be his last, he felt that he would play in the final eleven without keeping wickets I was thereby resurrected'

That was very kind of him, I thought and I thus kept wickets for my State for the first time What made that match more memorable was that I got 76 runs while all the others struggled We lost the match on the basis of conceding the first innings lead to Bombay Since then, whenever I have not been playing Tests or touring, I have not missed a match "

IF the game of musical chairs for keeping wickets for his home State seemed over with the exit of Budhi Kunderan, Kirmani found himself a participant in an identical game at the zonal cricket level By then, Krishnamoorthy who had established himself as the regular wicket-keeper for the Services had moved over to Hyderabad and was considered as the first wicket to get for South Zone in the Duleep Trophy Championship

For the tour of the West Indies, with Farokh Engineer unavailable, Krishnamoorthy was selected and in a terrific balancing act by the national selectors, Russi Jeejeebhoy of Bengal went as Krishnamoorthy's deputy

"For the tour of the United Kingdom, which followed the series against the West Indies, I was selected as the third wicket-keeper With Farokh playing only in three Test matches, Krishnamoorthy and I played in County games alternatively I consider my selection for the England tour a good break and within the limited opportunities I did reasonably well on the tour," says Kirmani

But on his return home came the first of the series of setbacks For the tour of Sri Lanka which followed, Bharath Reddy, who had just returned from a tour of the United Kingdom, with the Indian Schoolboys' team, was pitchforked into the senior team as Krishnamoorthy's deputy

After having been kept out in the cold for the home series against Tony Lewis Englishmen, the next opportunity to stake a claim came for the 1974 tour of England Fighting for a place in the team, Kirmani came up with a knock of 68 in the Ranji final against Rajasthan at Jaipur

"This innings, on the eve of the selection of the Indian team, drove home my credentials and I was selected as the number one reserve 'keeper to Farokh Engineer

Clive Lloyd's men came and went in 1975-76, without Kirmani being called to the Indian XI and the man who first played for India in a non-Test Match in 1971 had to wait till the 1976-77 twin tour against New Zealand and the West Indies

"Farokh could not make the trip as he was having his benefit match that year from Lancashire and thus I finally made my Test debut in the first Test, at Auckland. I had a very good debut series in New Zealand, equalling a world record of six dismissals in an innings in the second Test at Christchurch. But as we moved on to the West Indies, the nightmare for me started.

"I was totally at a loss, unable to figure out what really happened to me. I kept badly and there was a general lack of confidence on my part. This is possibly the worst nightmare I have had while playing", confesses Kiri



Another victim! Chauhan, Vengsarkar Gavaskar and Vishwanath offer congratulations

With that bad patch behind him, came the home series against Glenn Turner's New Zealanders It was indeed a crucial phase for someone who finds himself with self-confidence in acutely short supply.

"One national selector, whom I shall not name, told me on the morning of the first Test at Bombay "Listen, Kirmani. You had better buck up and pull up your socks This is going to be a do-or-die Test for you " I knew that myself and in the nick of time I came up with an innings of 88 and retained my place in the team."

RETAIN his place he did, until the biggest shock of his life (thus far at least) came his way When the Indian team to tour England for the

World Cup and the series which followed immediately in 1979 was announced, Kiri did not find his name among the list

We asked him to recall those moments and the circumstances leading to it "It is my personal opinion that I was still the best in the business around. I think there was a deliberate attempt by a section, a small section at that, of the Press to put me down All sorts of things were being said about me.

"People started saying that I was too old and that my reflexes were not very good and that I was a traitor and all that." The "Traitor" part was ostensibly a reference to his then imminent joining of the Kerry Packer circuit

How did the Packer affair begin? and he asked us to have a chat with him and then decide.

"Sunil and I met Mr Taylor at the Taj in Bombay and we received the terms and conditions and the contract forms which we were to sign if we were willing to join. Both of us said that since there was no particular hurry we wanted time to decide and we said that we would let them know when we had made up our minds either way. The matter ended there until the tour of Pakistan in the last quarter in 1978 There we were once again given fresh forms along with some others like Vishy and Mohinder. No one had made up their minds and the Packer affair died down with the compromise reached before WSC was wound up "

Packer angle, we asked Kirmani when exactly he learnt that he was dropped from the Indian team for the England tour.

"I remember I was playing a Times Shield match in Bombay. After the day's play I was returning to my room in the Wankhede Stadium and as I was climbing up the staircase I saw Vishy and his wife trying to get Vishy's father-in-law on the phone I asked what they were doing. Then I remembered that the team was being announced that day and they wanted to know from Mr Gavaskar whether the team was announced in the evening. Finally, when Vishy did get his father-in-law on the line, the latter started reading out the list of those selected For my benefit, Vishy was



Kirmani is honoured by a local organisation

"You see, after we toured Australia, the World Series Cricket (WSC) people were obviously impressed with me. But contrary to what some people believe, I was not offered a contract by Kerry Packer then We had returned to India and I was playing some match (I don't remember which) in Bangalore when I got a message that Asif Iqbal had called from England and that he wanted to speak to me He had also rung up Sunil (Gavaskar). A little later Asif rang up again and he spoke to Gavaskar and then to me and he said that Packer was interested in offering contracts to Sunil and me and was I interested? I said that like Sunil I had an open mind on the issue and our accepting the offer. He said Lynton Taylor would be arriving in Bombay

WHY did he not accept the Packer offer eventually? "There were various things to consider For one, the prospect of not being able to play for the country again You see, in the first place I was considering joining Packer's WSC because I knew I would be competing with the best And I think it was a great honour to be even considered for the Series because that put me in the top bracket of wicket-keepers in the world."

But was not the money offered the main bait? How much was he offered by Packer? "The money was there, of course, but it was not the main or the only consideration. No, I'm afraid I would not like to discuss the amount."

But to come back to the point from where we digressed to bring in the

repeating each name after he heard it at our end. After Vishy had the last of the names I realised my name was not there and I thought he was just fooling around But Vishy was dead serious. He asked his father-in-law to go through the names once again and then my worst fears were confirmed.

"Tears rolled down Vishy's cheeks. I think he said something like. 'It's unbelieveable, Kiri.. take it easy'. I was absolutely speechless. Vishy asked me to accompany him and his wife to a movie I said 'No thank you ' I went into a trance. I just left the stadium and hailed a taxi The taxi driver asked me. 'Where do you want to go?' I said, 'I don't know' He said 'But how can I take you anywhere without knowing where you want to?'



A beaming Kirmani at Auckland on the twin tour last winter

"I told him to just keep on driving and not to stop until I told him to I assured him that he would be paid his due and he kept driving for about half an hour All I did was sit back and stare at the upholstery of the cab Somewhere I woke up from the trance and asked the cabbie to turn around and take me back to the Wankhede Stadium When I got out, the meter showed 55 rupees

"That night I did not sleep But the next morning I told myself There is nobody better than me as yet I will come back into the team soon"

And come back, as we all know, he did in the series against Kim Hughes' Australians which began one week after the Indian team returned from England

SO much for Kirmani the cricketer What is Kirmani like as a man? From the superficial knowledge I have about him, he seems friendly in a genuine sort of way People in the know describe him as a walkie-talkie edition of Dale Carnegie's "*How to win Friends and Influence People*" Kirmani describes himself as the kind of guy who "really likes meeting people"

This was testified to by a couple of his colleagues in the bank where he works Said one "You can see Kiri there. He is refereeing an intra-branch ball badminton match for the lady staff members He is not the type who would consider such a thing below his dignity"

Does he ever tire of trying to be all-things-to-all-people-at-all-times? Does the glare of publicity worry him?

"No, I am basically like that I have never felt the lack of privacy because of being a Test cricketer On the contrary I still feel good when people recognise me in public. As a rule, I always oblige autograph hunters, unless, of course, I have an appointment and I am in a hurry to keep it The only problem about being a well-known personality is that you have to constantly be on guard in public You know that if you make one little mistake you will be in the news

Would he have made it to Test level if he had given up keeping wickets early and stuck to concentrating on batting? Kirmani replies. "No, I do not think I would have made it if I had stuck to being solely a middle-order batsman Not with the kind of keen competition around"

The man is often compared in terms of flamboyance and dash to one of his predecessors—Farokh Engineer. Has he ever made an effort to build up an image consciously? No he says He never envies the glamour that invests some of his colleagues.

With a cricketing career of so many ups and downs, wouldn't he have plenty of material for a colourful autobiography?

"May be, yes. But I have not yet made up my mind about writing one yet"

Will he, if ever, write it before he retires or after?

"If at all, after."

And will the book contain "dynamite" like those of some of his colleagues?

The stumper is stumped.

"I don't know I can only say that if and when I get down to writing the book".

On toast

THE day we interviewed Kirmani at his Shantinagar residence, Dilip Vengsarkar's article on him appeared in Sportsweek. Kiri was thrilled with everything his teammate had written about him, but for the part that says he (Kiri) drinks occasionally "I think he must have seen me raise a toast during our victories and thereby presumed that I drink. The fact is, I never touch liquor As a matter of fact, some of my Muslim friends and relatives were upset because they began to wonder whether in fact I was drinking on tour and maintaining a facade of being a teetotaller at home"

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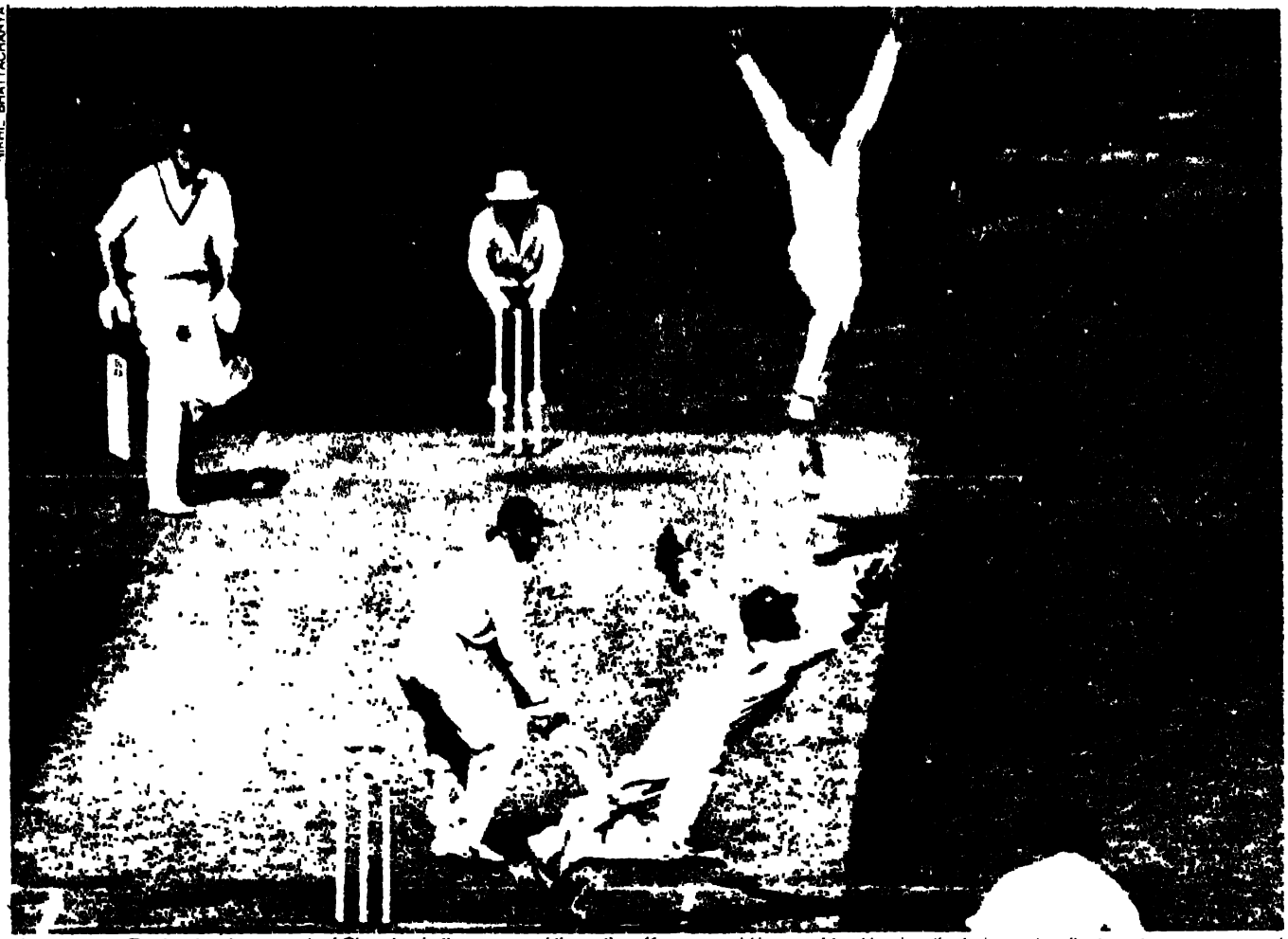
Sunil Gavaskar should captain against England

But, says MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI, should the selectors feel otherwise, the best man would be Syed Kirmani, albeit in a temporary capacity

IT was one ot those situations where the selectors had precious little choice With Brearley quite sensibly declining the post, in spite of the convincing win against Australia, and Boycott never considered a suitable alternative, who else was there but Fletcher to take over, and never mind if he is also a temporary replacement of a temporary captain In fact, Fletcher's credentials are more than respectable. He has had a good season with the bat, and on his last tour of India, it was noticeable that he was frequently consulted by his captain

In County circles it is said that he can read the trend that a game is likely to take earlier than most others He is also considered a competent player of spin, though this particular aspect has less relevance in present

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



Kirmani drops Tolchard to the anguish of Chandra In the opinion of the author, Kirmani could be capable of leading the Indian side, albeit in a temporary capacity

Indian conditions than it did a few years ago And so it is more than reasonable to expect that England will continue to have the services of a captain who will enjoy the respect and full confidence of his team.

And what about India? The time is approaching for the annual general meeting, when the selectors will be elected, and soon after the captain There are those who are already advocating a change. It is felt that like Botham, Gavaskar, once unburdened with the cares of captaincy, will again resume to delight the statistician, and satisfy his fans In similar circumstances, if somebody like Vishwanath had been the captain, one may have concurred with this line of thought, because highly talented players like, Vishwanath, Botham, and before them Compton and Miller are instinctive performers, better left to their own devices and certainly not to be given added responsibility unless it is absolutely unavoidable

Gavaskar is just as talented, but in style and attitude there is little similarity, and there seems no justification in the argument that the cares of captaincy were responsible for his failures with the bat The team's, as he is surely aware, lie elsewhere

Like Botham, Gavaskar will again delight the statistician

In a long career one is expected to fail at times and there is no permanent damage if it is followed by success, and with the English bowlers being no more hostile than those who suffered while Gavaskar scored his 220 at The Oval, there seems no obvious reason why a return to form is not imminent

Looking back to the Indo Australian series one can only recall one tactical error, which had a conclusive bearing on the result, and that was the decision to bat first on a helpful Sydney wicket In those conditions it was very unlikely that Lillee and the other fast bowlers would have let many batting sides, let alone India, take the initiative The decision thereafter to go for a draw at Adelaide, and try one's luck on a tricky and uneven Melbourne track, came in for initial criticism, but in the end proved that the Indians had hit on the only solution which could save face This is not to say that Gavaskar's captaincy is without blemish

It has been suggested before and by more than one commentator that in Australia and New Zealand the Indian captain became preoccupied with his own failures, to the detriment of the team This can remain only a conjecture, unless, as seems to be the latest fashion, some of the players intend to revel all Till then there is no necessity or need to change things as they stand, but if the selectors feel otherwise, I, for one, cannot think of a more sensible choice than Kirmani, but of course only as a temporary measure



Gavaskar in action against Pakistan will he find his form?

GUNDAPPA VISHWANATH



England's new helmsman

ASHIS RAY profiles Keith Fletcher

THAT Keith Fletcher would captain England in India was a foregone conclusion. He was virtually the only choice, with Mike Brearley committed to a course in psychoanalysis this winter. Further, as Ian Botham is considered much too valuable a component in the side—he practically won the series against Australia on his own to be burdened by the leadership and Roger Knight, despite his qualities as skipper is lacking in Test experience, the onus had to fall on the thirty seven year old Fletcher, who stewarded Essex, two years back, to their first ever County title, as well as the Benson and Hedges trophy.

It might seem a bit strange that the English selectors should revert back to a man who has not played Test cricket in the last four years. Indeed, he hasn't donned England's colours since the Centenary Test in Melbourne in 1977, but England have a problem.

The experiment with Botham failed miserably, Boycott is deemed as much too selfish a cricketer to be a good captain, and Gooch and Gower not looked upon as elements who should be distracted from their batting responsibilities. In any case, the last two mentioned are not captains at the County level, which, irrespective of the departure in Botham's case, is still rated as an important criterion.

One recalls the instance of Richie Benaud being preferred to Neil Harvey against Peter May's side in 1958-59 because the Australian selectors and particularly Sir Donald Bradman spotted in the former a flair for leadership. And how right their judgement proved to be! There is also the example of Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi not leading either Hyderabad or South Zone but holding the reins for India. But the same inspired approach has been largely absent in the Englishmen's style, which, though less influenced by the essentials of pedigree, is still comparatively conservative. Perhaps, a faulty system. But there it is.

Of course, Fletcher's nomination is not entirely a negative step. Despite his exclusion from the England side in recent years, he has remained a highly respected cricketer, admired for his abilities as both batsman and skipper. In fact, Bob Willis, England's vice-captain for quite some time strongly canvassed for his appointment as captain last year when the question of replacing Brearley first cropped up. This support is likely to linger during the forthcoming tour. And, joining him in this sentiment will be several other members of the squad. So, the matter of co-operation is immediately sorted out.

But how well he handles Botham is certainly going to be interesting to watch. For a start, the two have never featured in a Test match together. Secondly, it's quite well known that Botham wanted the captaincy back. He does not believe that his

Vaidal looks apprehensively after being struck on the pads. Fletcher is the non-striker



astonishing comeback has anything to do with being relieved of the leadership, although not even his staunchest supporters would now accept that Finally, it was a sort of mutual admiration between Brearley and Botham which brought out the best in the latter Will he "vibe" in the same manner with Fletcher? He might, and probably will, but, perhaps, not in as consistent a fashion as with Brearley

Fletcher is obviously delighted at being recognised, and spoke of the stirring sensation one encounters when playing cricket in India He made particular reference to the huge crowds, citing the phenomenon of ninety thousand spectators in Calcutta, but he also drew attention to the pressures that accompany such an environment which he is well aware of having been there twice "Experience is crucial for a tour of India" he remarked, which many took as a pointed criticism of all this talk about trying out youngsters Indeed, it could mean that the quota of newcomers could be reduced considerably from the figure once envisaged

A close shave but Fletcher lives to fight another day





Keith Fletcher on his last visit to Calcutta

One of the main reasons for endorsing Fletcher's candidature is his adroitness against spin Those who witnessed his unbeaten 97 at Madras in 1972-73 will unhesitatingly vouch for this quality, and in fact, when Chandrasekhar was slicing through the Essex innings at Chelmsford two years ago on another turner, it was the captain again who came to the rescue He has just under 3,000 runs in 52 Tests with an average of 40 20, which is quite reasonable if not outstanding

However, Fletcher's is clearly a short term assignment, and much will depend on how well he fares in India Next summer it's again India, along with Pakistan—neither team boasting a retinue of fast bowlers, which has been the real bother for Fletcher over the years—and he could well be kept on at the helm An important indication will be the choice of England's vice-captain Here, the selectors can easily demonstrate a bit of foresight by naming a younger player for the job, instead of someone like Willis, who can't be very far from the end of the road Indeed, he has failed to complete both the last two winter tours breaking down in Australia and the West Indies It will be remarkable if he lasts the distance this time in India

But there should be no worries on this count regarding Fletcher because he is still fit, and to a certain extent, raring to go as a result of having been kept out of the limelight for some time Furthermore the tensions of captaincy should not affect his game He tends to thrive on responsibility He is also likely to win many friends with his quite, introverted outlook

But before he embarks on the trip he'd like to win at least one trophy this season In the Schweppes County Championship, although Nottinghamshire at the moment, look the best placed, Essex are still in with an outside chance of grabbing the honours And in the John Player Sunday League, they are the ones to beat With a domestic title under the belt, Fletcher will be just about ripe and ready to take on India

Patrick Eagar



Profile

Rodney Marsh: Genius behind the stumps

ABHIJIT GHOSH and V KESAVAN profile a legend

THE Seventies saw Australian cricket in the doldrums after stunning defeats at the hands of South Africa (0-4) in 1970 and England (0-2) in 1970-71. But five men were soon to lift Australia to dizzy heights, earning their country new respect in cricketing circles. Two of these men were the illustrious Chappell brothers, Ian and Greg. The other two were the exciting fast bowlers Denis Lillee and Jeff Thomson. The fifth was an ebullient wicketkeeper-batsman named Rodney William Marsh. These five helped change the entire complexion of Australian cricket moulding the team into a formidable Test side.



Marsh had never had it easy. There was plenty of talent in the sphere of wicketkeeping and Brian Taber, then at the height of his popularity, was not going to be a pushover. But Marsh had one very prominent man to champion his cause — the great Don Bradman. Sir Donald sang his praises, fighting persistently for the inclusion of Marsh in the national side for the 1970-71 series against England. The reason for the Don's backing was not hard to find — he fervently believed that Marsh was a better batsman than any of the other wicketkeepers on the Australian circuit at the time.

Indeed, Marsh had first gained selection for Western Australia as a batsman, scoring a century against the touring West Indians in the second innings of his debut match in 1968-69. Among his most notable batting feats, however, was an innings of 236 for his State against Pakistan a few years later. Sir Donald, shrewd campaigner that he was, realised the necessity of strengthening Australia's middle order batting, the vulnerability of which had been rudely exposed against South Africa. Thus it was that Marsh was given his chance.

Marsh survived a baptism of fire in his first Test series with a magnificent 92 not out at Melbourne. In that series the Australian critics nicknamed him "Iron Gloves" because of the number of times he dropped the ball, but the talent was clearly visible in his aggressive approach to the game and his ability as a batsman. An immensely hard hitter of the ball, often hitting straight back over the bowler's head, and a ruthless square-cutter of anything short, he has also proved himself capable of playing defensive cricket with an impeccably straight bat. However, he is naturally a hard hitting left-handed batsman who bat best when the chips are down. At Manchester in 1972, when the Aussie batting collapsed, he pulverised the English bowlers for four sixes while scoring 91 invaluable runs.

Marsh also has the distinction of scoring the first Test century among Australian wicketkeepers. Of his three Test hundreds the best is perhaps his 110 not out against England in the Centenary Test in Melbourne in 1977 which brought about a glorious victory for Australia.

THE early part of Marsh's Test career was not exactly strewn with roses. He had to cross several hurdles and overcome scathing criticism before he finally found acceptance in Australian cricket circles. Several among the Australian critics, including the illustrious Jack Fingleton, wrote him off as corpulent and clumsy. Although Marsh held four catches on his Test debut, the critics did not spare him for the three chances he let off. They disparaged him in comparison with England's Alan Knott, who was then in peak form.

However, even this criticism could not dampen his fighting spirit. Marsh, despite the adversities was determined to carve a niche for himself in the world of cricket. At that time he tipped the scales at an alarming 217 lbs, threatening to outweigh even the early 20th century heavy-weight Australian boxer W. W. Armstrong.

His team-mates dubbed him "Bacchus" after the Greek god of wine, but Marsh tackled the serious problem of being grossly overweight through rigorous self-discipline. He abjured his favourite viands and beverages and instead began to gobble up catches behind the wickets. By sacrificing beer, bread and potatoes and limiting his lunch to just three pieces of fruit, the 5' 8½" Marsh finally managed to strike the right ratio between height

PATRICK EAGAR



Marsh takes a brilliant catch to remove Boycott in the fourth Test of the current series

and weight

Consequently, of course, he became less clumsy and more confident behind the stumps. The shedding of superfluous flesh sharpened his skills so greatly that Denis Lillee, proclaimed the heavy debt he owed to Marsh for his tremendous success as a fast bowler.

As a wicketkeeper he is as acrobatic as Godfrey Evans. To Stuart Surridge he is "the greatest wicketkeeper to pace bowling the world has ever seen." Keeping wickets against such fast bowlers as Denis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, as he has been doing for well over a decade, is a daunting task in any respect.

Robust and brave, Marsh has courageously faced the constant battering of his gloved hands from balls unleashed at a speed of around 90 miles per hour by Lillee, Thomson and more recently Pascoe and Alderman. His hands sometimes get bruised although he tie tape around his fingers and packs his gloves with foam rubber. He often has to stand 27 paces behind the sticks, diving yards down the leg side when the bowler errs in his direction, jumping to stop the boundary-bound bouncers and lumbering up to the wicket to hold returns.

Leaping high or diving wide, Marsh has held some astounding catches. The dismissal he singles out as his best is the one which he took with one glove. He shot out to the leg side to dismiss Bevan Congdon, the former Kiwi captain, off the bowling of Max Walker in the Auckland Test in 1974. Incidentally, this was his 100th catch in Test cricket.

Marsh is one of many star Australian cricketers who opted out of Test cricket by signing lucrative contracts in 1977 to play for the breakaway World Series Cricket (WSC) organisation. However, even before WSC destroyed two fruitful years of his Test career, he had demolished Wally Grout's record of 187 dismissals.

Ken Cassolas is of the opinion that "Marsh is still at this very moment the best wicketkeeper in the world." The validity of this statement is best warranted by Marsh's achievements as a wicketkeeper throughout his Test career. He is the only wicketkeeper in Test cricket who holds three world records all set during the current series against England.

FIRST Marsh broke Alan Knott's record of 99 dismissals (91 catches, 8 stumpings, set against Australia) and created the record of a "century" of dismissals against one particular country when he caught Bob Woolmer in the Trent Bridge Test against England. This was his 100th dismissal (93 caught, 7 stumped) against England. However, both Marsh and Knott required, by sheer coincidence, 32 Tests each to set their respective records. After the end of the Old Trafford Test, Marsh's tally of dismissals against England had increased to 119 while that of Knott against Australia stood at 104.

Marsh's second world record was the logical outcome of his first one. His 100th dismissal against England enabled him to surpass Knott's record of 244 catches. He now holds (till the end of the Old Trafford Test) the record for the maximum number of catches (264) in the history of Test cricket. Knott is next only to Marsh in this regard with 249 catches.

Marsh registered his third world record on July 18 in the first innings of the Headingley Test. So far, Knott had been the holder of 263 dismissals—the maximum taken by a wicketkeeper in Test cricket. But on that day Marsh overshadowed his great English counterpart and took his 264th dismissal when he caught the redoubtable Ian Botham off the bowling of Denis Lillee. This is all the more remarkable because Marsh required 22 Tests less than Alan Knott to achieve this feat. Till the end of the fifth Test at Old Trafford, Marsh had notched up 275 dismissals in 73 Tests, while Knott had a tally of 268 victims in 94 Tests.



Rodney Marsh in a belligerent mood

MARSH's sporting spirit is in consonance with his dexterity in cricket. During the Centenary Test in Melbourne in 1977, he recalled Derek Randall, the English batsman to the crease after the umpire had given him out caught behind the wicket by Marsh. Actually, Marsh had taken the catch on first bounce. Later when Australian captain Greg Chappell advised his brother Trevor to deliver underarm the last ball of the Benson and Hedges World Series [illegible] contested over matches in Melbourne, the Kiwi batsman McEwan [illegible] chance of hitting [illegible] table New Zealand [illegible] the match. Mc[illegible] said no, don't do it.

While the West [illegible] tors of 1970 [illegible] incidentable wisdom [illegible] ring the [illegible] to the [illegible] selectors of 1981 neglected [illegible] justice on him by denying him Test captaincy, instead choosing Kim Hughes [illegible] captain of the touring Australian team to England. That was not all. The West [illegible] Australian State selectors also deposed Marsh [illegible] of the State team and installed Hughes in his [illegible].

But Marsh is essentially a team man. Not for him the petty wranglings of team politics. He will do his job behind the stumps just as he has done for his country over the last decade with every ounce of sincere effort. And in front of the stumps his credo will always remain constant. Get the bowlers out of the ground.

CHETAN CHAUHAN



Interview

I owe most of my inspiration to Sunil

CHETAN CHAUHAN tells SUJEET MOHANTY

SPORTSWORLD: Do you think Sunil Gavaskar will regain his form in the forthcoming series against England?

CHAUHAN Let me honestly say that Sunil is going to come back with a bang He is expected to come back with a vengeance and score handsomely He is too good a player to be content with low scores for a long time It is a tragedy that cricket fans and sports commentators have never tried to understand that every great player sometimes goes through a lean patch But this unfortunate period cannot continue for a long time

SPORTSWORLD: How would you assess Sunil Gavaskar as a batsman and a captain?

CHAUHAN· Being always at the opposite end, I am supposed to be the best judge of the authenticity of his batsmanship I can emphatically say that he is not only technically sound as a batsman, but he is also an astute captain A skipper should be one who has the inherent ability to extract the best out of his team Again, a skipper is like a father, harmonising the various elements of a team that may pose a real threat to its own integrity Sunil also possesses this quality In fact I owe more than 70 per cent of my success to the inspiration which I get from him by batting at the other end

SPORTSWORLD. The younger generation has become crazy about Kapil Dev Can you account for this trend?

CHAUHAN· Today all the kids want to emulate Kapil Dev I think that five to ten years from now, the fashion of the day will be fast bowling Fifteen years ago, youngsters wanted to become a Bedi, a Prasanna, a Chandrashekhar or a Venkataraghavan Now, though, there is a fascination for fast bowling

SPORTSWORLD· **There is no dearth of young opening batsmen in India Which of them, do you think, have the brightest prospects of playing Test cricket for India?**

CHAUHAN: Sanjeeva Rao, Srikanth, Arun Lal, and Raju Sethi are the young cricketers who have the bright prospects of playing Tests

SPORTSWORLD· **Would you comment on the much-discussed standard of umpiring in Australia and New Zealand?**

CHAUHAN: Though I am bound by an agreement with the Cri Control Board not to say anything about the Australian and New Zealand tours, I can say that with the introduction of slow motion TV the umpires have got to be more cautious because if they commit mistakes the errors will be easily noticed In this context I have great respect for Dicky Bird and our own Swaroop Kishen Not that the others are bad, but these two have the inherent capacity to control the players and the match This is what makes a good umpire

SPORTSWORLD Do you have any regrets in your life?

CHAUHAN· Yes, I have I feel pity for my coach, Mr Kamal Bhandarkar, because his services are not being utilised Whatever I am today is due mostly to my coach He, I think, is one of the finest coaches in India today He has the sort of intuition to realise which young player has the possibility to prosper in future, and devotes special attention to these boys I still recollect that, while I was studying at Wadia College, Pune, I was not even included amongst the twenty players selected for the college team It was only when I requested Mr Bhandarkar, to include me at least within the selected twenty, that he conceded to my request It was only then that he "spotted" me When I once got scared to face an inswinger and got myself out, he came fuming at me, brandishing a wicket in his hand and gave me a whack on my bottom, saying that the ball would not have hurt me more than that It is a pity that his services have not been recognised My second regret relates to the money we get from playing Tests, which is heavily taxed If, after playing 17 Tests at the costs of my family's displeasure, I get Rs 1,20,000, I appeal to the government, not to the Board, to do something about it Now you can see how much a Test cricketer really earns

SPORTSWORLD· **Do you have anything to say about Bedi's recent allegations against Gavaskar?**

CHAUHAN: Please do not involve me in this controversy I love peace and I hate controversy I have great respect for Sunil both as a player and as a captain At the same time, though, I must say that Bedi has done a lot for the improvement of cricket in Delhi and also for the promotion of the interests of cricketers in our country. In fact, it was he who took the initiative of forming the Players' Association in India.



Chetan Chauhan claims he owes a heavy debt to Sunil Gavaskar for the majority of his success



Chetan Chauhan in an aggressive mood

Focus

Bhopal hockey tangle settled—finally

SUBHASH SARCAR traces the beginnings of the trouble

TO the people of Bhopal, hockey is a second religion. All else pales in comparison with this game, which is undeniably the opium of the masses. Everyone in the area can talk knowledgeably on the subject for hours at a stretch and arguments often involve strangers who stop by to give their point of view.

Rickshaw pullers need no invitation to start a discourse on the game. Everyone is a hockey fanatic. A tournament is a magnet. The people of Bhopal can resist anything but a hockey game. They will converge on the venue on their hundreds, ready to pick faults on the part of players and umpires alike. When there is a hockey game in the offing all else is forgotten. For a long time.

The remarkable thing about this fervour is that the average person is capable of judging players and officials alike, viewing them dispassionately in order to give a verdict. Indeed, Bhopalis still talk in animated tones about the frequent hockey battles between the infantry teams of the then princely state. Their eyes light up when they discuss how the game first took root in the area or when they recall the heroic deeds of the historic Bhopal Wanderers. This team included the two famous hockey stars, Rashiduz Zafar and Ismail Abbasi.

The Bhopal Hockey Association came into being in 1931 and the inaugural Obaidullah Gold Cup was initiated by General Obaidullah's son Rashid, both of which events form an integral part of Bhopal's hockey heritage. Finally, the pride of the Bhopal people knew no bounds when Ahmed Sher Khan and Akhtar Husain donned the country's colours.

After the inception of the BHA, the affairs of the game were conducted smoothly under the presidentship of Justice Salamuddin Khan, the founder of the association, who was ably supported in the discharge of his duties by Mashkoor Hasan, Rai Lala Mulk Raj, Vijay Gupta, Fakhruddin, R N Nagu and S Aftabuddin till the president's death in 1975. It was no secret that Justice Khan wanted Mansur Ali Khan to be his successor. The latter, however, declined initially, although he agreed—albeit reluctantly—to fight for the post of president.

However, an undercurrent of tension was already beginning to make itself felt under the leadership of the former BHA secretary Vijay Gupta, who was joint manager of the Indian hockey team at the Barcelona World Cup. The latter is a criminal lawyer by profession and remained in office for no less than 17 years, in one capacity or another. In 1977, all posts of the BHA were contested for the first time in the history of the body. Rajinder Malhotra—better known as the radio commentator—defeated Mr Gupta in his quest for the post of secretary. Insignificant though it seemed at the time, it was to transpire later that this single incident was to sow the seeds of future discord.

When, therefore, Malhotra resigned in mid-term, Gupta triumphantly announced, "He has resigned because he was unable to control hockey. The result of this was the murder of hockey coach Shafique Pathan prior to the Madurai Nationals. His inefficiency compelled him to relinquish his post as secretary."

But Malhotra was quick to retaliate. "Mr Gupta cannot tolerate my tremendous social standing. Besides, there are other reasons for him to feel jealous. I am a top management consultant, a radio commentator with All India Radio in both hockey and cricket. The point is, I just did not have sufficient time to devote to my post in the BHA and this was the reason for my resignation. I stepped down voluntarily." The fact is that nothing like this had ever happened in the history of Bhopal hockey and Mr Aftabuddin was co-opted as secretary to fill in the gap.

Ghufran-e-Azam—BHA president





Naseem Salamuddin—BHA secretary

Although the BHA president agreed to fresh elections in April, the Madhya Pradesh Government forced the Association to follow the four year guideline as laid down. Thus, Mr Aftabuddin continued for another year and had the privilege of helping organise the golden jubilee celebrations of the body.

At this stage, the name of a prominent hockey player—Aslam Sher Khan—came into the picture. It is widely acknowledged that he was a mere tool in the hands of Mr Gupta. As an old Bhopal hand put it, "Aslam believes in short term glory only. He cannot concentrate on anything for a very long time, as evident from his hockey and politics. Aslam has gone on record as having said he would bring back glory to Bhopal hockey, but this was a gimmick, calculated to get himself into the limelight and nothing else. A number of his announcements—staging benefit matches for old players and the staging of memorial tournaments—were never meant for implementation. The sole intention behind such statements was that of personal publicity. Even his plan for a hockey hostel in Bhopal was frowned upon. He had asked the government for land before he had even submitted the scheme.

It is indeed true that Aslam is ambitious, but certainly the charge of personal satisfaction cannot be substantiated. After his hockey days were over, he resigned from Indian Airlines and dabbled in politics despite advice from local MP Ghufran-e-Azam to concentrate on hockey and play in one last Olympic Games. The hockey star, however, remained adamant, sought election and lost miserably from the Bhojpur constituency. This, then, was the background to Aslam's entry into hockey administration side by side with Vijay Gupta. A rival body was formed on February 8, 1981 with Aslam Sher Khan as president and Gupta as secretary. This was done despite the threat of a legal notice by Mr Aftabuddin. It is alleged that Aslam and Gupta neglected the all-important stipulation of producing a voters' list. Furthermore, it seems, the



The first all-India tournament Aslam Sher Khan (sitting second from right) played in was in 1961 at Madras Saifia College became runners-up in the MCC tournament, which included Ghufran-e-Azam (fourth from left)

names of the office-bearers were not furnished The intention, although unstated, was patently clear a parallel body was being formed. A story was spread to the effect that an Indian Hockey Federation observer was being sent to surpervise the elections, but no such observer ever showed up

Mr M S Senger, the director of Sports and Youth Welfare was proclaimed the IHF and MP Government observer but he later refuted this, saying: "I did not act in such a capacity I was neither an IHF observer, nor was I acting on behalf of the State Government as stated by Mr Gupta " After this statement, most of the clubs involved pleaded that they had attended the meeting in question solely because they had been led to believe that the IHF would be represented

Meanwhile, the body governing Indian hockey knew nothing of the latest developments It only knew that elections were about to be held, but it did not know which group was about to hold them. More ludicrously, even while the Punjab Hockey Association informed the BHA about the schedule of matches in the Jullundur Nationals, Vijay Gupta was preparing to send his own team for the same tournament. In the meanwhile, Aftabuddin had informed the IHF about the formation of a parallel group in the State and the IHF president, I.M Mahajan, replied "The IHF is being dragged unnecessarily into the internal affairs of the BHA".

The parallel group, however, refused to deviate from their aim of sending a team to the Nationals, despite a warning from the Punjab Hockey Association. Ultimately, the breakaway faction's team went unrecognised Though former IHF vice president Mashkoor Hasan, with the future of the players in mind, suggested that a combined side be fielded, Aslam remained adamant and refused to agree Aslam then left for Delhi, claiming that he would get clearance for his team through influential politicians, but he failed to return, leaving his side high and dry.

Vijay Gupta tried his level best to have the Bhopal issue raised at the IHF meeting at Jullundur, but when the topic came up for discussion, Ghufran-e-Azam (vice president of the IHF) announced "We are holding our own elections in April and would like the IHF to send an observer" This is on record in the IHF minute books The elections were indeed held in April and were conducted by Mr Aftabuddin Mr Fakhruddin presided over the meeting, while Mr Akhtar Saeed, a leading advocate in Bhopal, functioned as election officer The IHF observer was one Mr Katare The outcome of the election was that Ghufran-e-Azam assumed the post of president and Naseem Salamuddin took over as secretary, all the other office-bearers being democratically elected

Gupta, meanwhile, retaliates by saying "Ghufran called an election after having assured himself of the support of his personal favourites He declared himself the BHA president and Naseem Salamuddin the secretary In my opinion, he was just seeking to use his influence"

Aslam, meanwhile, was geared for a showdown It was feared that he would try his level best to sabotage the prestigious Obaidullah Gold Cup as he did not want the Ghufran group to take the credit for the tournament Thus it was no great surprise when the top teams decided to give the tournament a bye, puzzled by the confusion over the running of the Gold Cup. In the words of Nassem Salamuddin, "After I took charge as secretary on April 26, I took charge of sending letters and telegrams to teams that would be participating Most of them accepted our invitation and we then started informing them about our terms and conditions Concession forms had to be sent to the respective teams and though we went to the station to greet teams, many of them never even showed up. This was because of confusion created by the dissidents, who claimed that they were hosting the 'real' Obaidullah Gold Cup from June 12 onwards, which happens to be the monsoon here in Bhopal Is it any wonder then, that the top teams chose to stay away?"

Continued Salamuddin, "We thank our lucky stars that we were able to host the Obaidullah Cup tournament eventually To local hockey lovers, this tournament is nothing less than a hockey festival, a kind of Mardi Gras One cannot help but wonder where the dissidents are getting its funds from. Money is not easy to come by these days, but they are certainly getting it from somewhere Let me point out that the team they sent to the Nationals did not avail of the railway concessions .this kind of thing cannot be easily overlooked "

With regard to the relationship between the two bodies, Mr Salamuddin said "There are so many platforms on which one can choose to fight. I cannot understand why they had to pick on hockey, a sport which is so close to the hearts of the people of Bhopal I am not saying that the Obaidullah tournament is our private property or anyone else's It belongs to the people of Bhopal "

The tangle remain unresolved, with both sides sending a team to the Kolhapur Nationals in May One question that needs to be raised at this stage is how did the chairman of the tournament ask the two sides to form a joint team, especially since the Aslam Sher Khan group had not even paid their entry fee? The blame seems to rest entirely on the IHF While Mahajan recognised Aftabuddin's team at Juliundur, the federation hesitated inexplicably at Kolhapur. What was the IHF up to? Was it playing a double role?

In the end analysis, the trouble boils down to a clash between Aslam Sher Khan and Ghufran-e-Azam. The latter commands a great deal of respect in the State of Madhya Pradesh and whisper has it that Aslam was trying to encroach on his popularity Said Ghufran when asked to comment on this "I do not want to discuss the issue Why don't you ask Aslam for his views on the subject? I wouldn't say that I am solely responsible for what he is today "

But the Bhopal hockey tangle was at last resolved when the IHF recognised the group headed by Ghufran-e-Azam as the true representative of hockey in the region This decision, taken in the first week of August, was, needless to say, a long-awaited one

But the last word on the issue must surely go to a Bhopal hockey veteran who said. "Why was Mahajan so hesitant about resolving the tangle?"

Why indeed?

Ultimately, pedigree shows.



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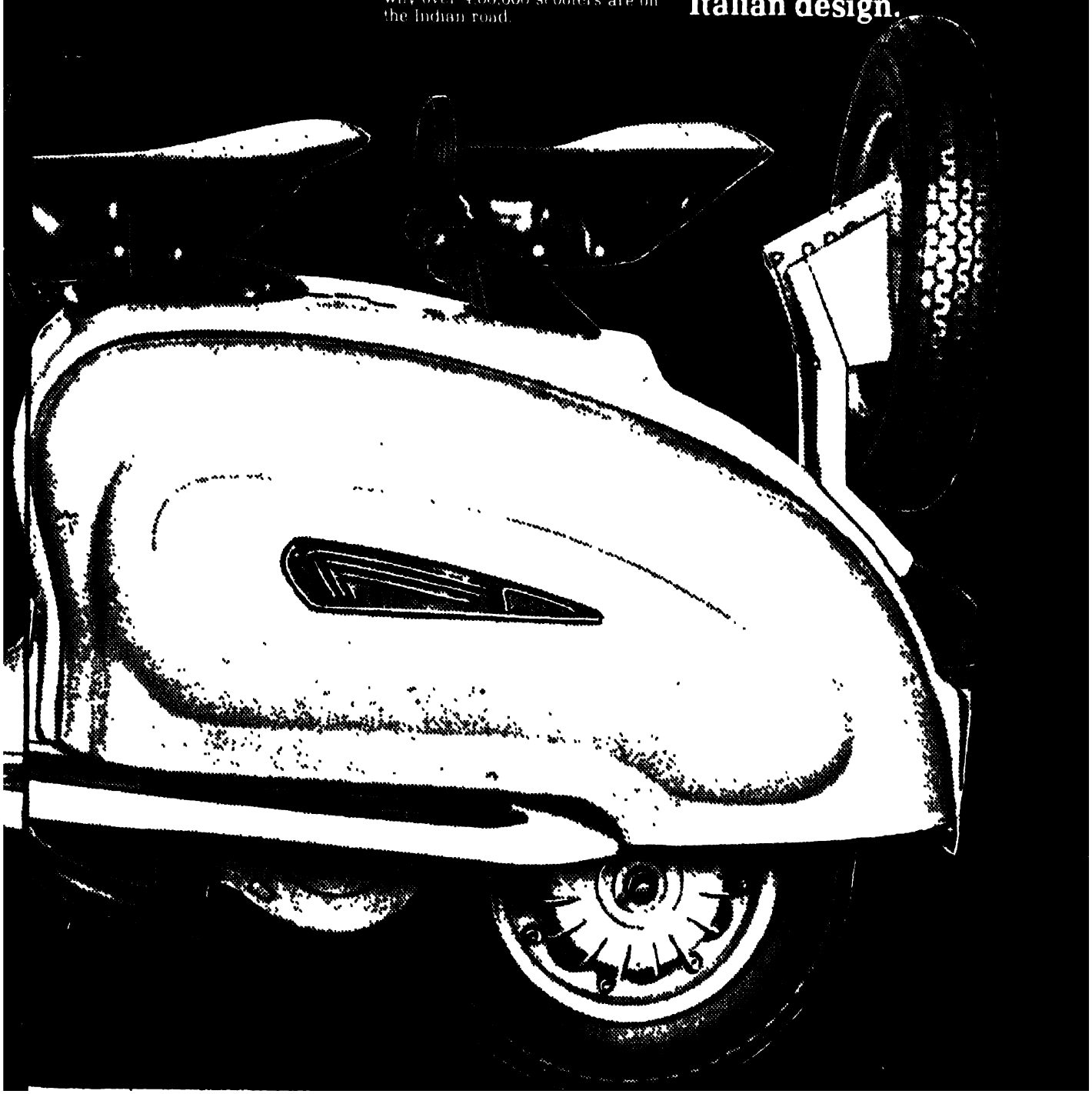
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INTERNATIONAL POLE VAULTING

The sky is the limit

RANJITKUMAR GHOSE

DESPITE the fact that the Olympic motto is "Citius, altius, fortius" (Faster, higher, stronger), the Games themselves seem to revolve almost entirely around the words "Citius" and "fortius". To be precise, the altius component is confined to only two sporting disciplines. the high jump and the pole vault

Of these two, it can be argued that the pole vault is the more challenging, as well as the more spectacular. Indeed, a recent survey confirmed that it is the most popular athletics event among spectators It could be noted in passing that the pole vault event of the 1968 Olympic Games lasted almost till midnight—totalling almost seven and a half hours—keeping thousands of spectators and, of course, the participants as well on tenterhooks It was also no surprise that the event had to be disturbed frequently in order to hold the victory ceremonies of the other events

It is obvious by the very nature of the Olympic Games that an Olympic record can only be set every four years This record can be, although not necessarily so, the world record as well. Thus, in the period between two Games, it is possible for world records to be set in various sports This in fact is precisely what is happening in the pole vault event.

Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz, the Pole who previously held the European record, cleared 5 78 metres at the Moscow Games to take the gold medal and also set up a new Olympic record This, incidentally, was a world record as well, but it was destined not to last more than a year Thierry Vigneron, the most famous of the French pole vaulting trio, (the other two are Rhilippe Houvion and Jean Michel Bellot) improved on the Pole's mark earlier this vear, but his new record was destined to be even more short-lived

Twenty-one-year-old Vladimir Polyakov of the USSR did just a centimetre better to wrest the crown shortly after Incidentally, Polyakov is the first Russian to hold the world pole vault record However, this was a record which several people, including this correspondent, thought would be broken by the great Konstantin Volkov, also of the USSR Without attempting to belittle Polyakov's achievement, one is tempted to say that it was a sort of aberration, corrected brilliantly by Volkov himself on August 3 Volkov cleared 5.84 metres and the world record went to the man who deserved it most, so to speak

Volkov had been one of the favourites for the gold at Moscow, while the others in the running were Polyakov and Tnofimenko (USSR), Vigneron, Tadensz Slusarski (Poland) The last named had won the Olympic gold at the 1976 Games Volkov, however, had to remain content with the silver. Actually, he and Slusarski tied at 5 65 metres, but Volkov was placed second on the "countback" rule

Why was Volkov so widely tipped for the gold at Moscow? His past records will explain. He held the world indoor record (5.64 m) He was the 1979 USSR pole vault champion (5.55 m) and in 1980 won the USSR winter championship in addition to the more prestigious European championship

Before winning the USSR championship gold (1979) Volkov, then the world junior champion and silver medallist at the 1979 European indoor championship in Vienna, said "My personal ambition is to clear 5 65 metres. When I achieve that I can start my assault on Olympic heights " The young man from Irkutsk (Siberia) has more than fulfilled his promise

Konstantin Volkov is a chip of the old block His pole-vaulter father Yuri Volkov coaches him. When the Volkovs shifted from the Ukraine to Siberia, the senior Volkov took charge of a sports school there which specialises in the pole vault The school is now famous throughout the USSR Konstantin was among the first pupils of the school, which is now busy training budding gold medallists of the country. As a matter of fact, the Irkutsk pole vaulters are the most respected lot in Europe, not to mention the USSR

Sowjetunion Heute (the German language edition of *Soviet Sports)* in its June 1980 issue predicted that competitors at Moscow would be able to reach 5 80 metres. Five months later *Sport in the USSR* which said that all records were in danger, put the likely world record at 5 85 metres Volkov is on the brink of that mark, but there is no reason to suppose that the record will not be broken It may rest at a higher level Personally, I shall not be astonished if the year 1981 witnesses a record of 5 88 m It may be Volkov



Volkov in action

himself or it may be one of the many others lying in background—Polyakov, Vigneron, Kozakiewicz and Slusarski, to mention only a few

Be that as it may, the record may be broken any time Uneasy lies also the head that wears the crown of a world or an Olympic record The charm of the whole thing is that both record-holders and their prospective rivals know this and silently do they prepare for the eventual showdown And in the process the record will go higher and higher How far? That we do not know The sky is the limit, you may say. And is this not literally so in the case of the pole vault at least?

INSTEAD of unnecessarily busying ourselves with the possible point of saturation or diminishing returns in pole vault or even with speculating how precarious is Volkov's perch at the top, we can better try to assess the strength of the leading pole vault 'powers' From the statistics available, it seems reasonably certain that in the next few years to come, the battle for world supremacy in the pole vault will be characterised by a severe Russo French duel

The world records of Polyakov and Volkov are sort of a warning to the world of sports that the Russians are coming As Volkov himself says, pole vaulting "is growing more and more popular in the Soviet Union with every passing year No other country has such a large reserve of first-class pole-vaulters" During the 1978 season more than 60 Soviet athletes cleared five metres and 17 of them topped the 5 30 m mark

And what about the Frenchmen? The world famous sports newspaper *L'equipe* calculated that in the seasons of 1979 and 1980, French pole-vaulters cleared 5 55 m (and higher) no less than 42 times, including 23 times between January and July last year! And the Vigneron-Bellot-Houvion trio had the lion's share Eight of those 5.55 m plus vaults were by Bellot, five by Houvion while Vigneron had to his credit seven including his first world record performance (5 70 m) which he repeated only three weeks before the Moscow Olympics It was indeed a pity Vigneron could not do well at the Lenin Stadium Others to be watched with interest are the Poles, who did so well in the last two Olympics, and the East Germans

Of course, no one should forget the USA In fact, it is difficult to ascertain their current strength, since they were not present at Moscow However, it must be admitted that in the Seventies there was indeed some sort of a decline in the U S supremacy in the sport They monopolised the Olympic pole vault from 1896 to 1972 when Bob Seagren, gold medallist in Mexico, lost his title to Wolfgang Vondwig of East Germany Seagren was at a disadvantage because his "catapult" style of vaulting was banned USA-USSR contests in athletics are always of absorbing interest, and one more such contest will enrich the sport of pole vaulting

Strangely, this is one sport which does not have a Greek origin It has a British heritage The Fen district of eastern England is dotted with marshy patches including ditches and dykes and in Saxon days, Englishmen showed the encroaching Normans a clean pair of heels by vaulting over those obstacles with the help of a long pole To be exact, that was pole "climbing" as distinguished from "vaulting" In any case, that was the beginning

Since that hoary past, many brilliant athletes have associated themselves with the sport How can one forget the American 'Dutch' Cornelius Warmerdam who reached 4 5 m (15 ft), the first vaulting milestone It was a tremendous achievement on his part to have cleared that height 47 times before any other vaulter cleared it once Another milestone was reached by the Greek Christos Papanicotaou in 1970 He crossed the 18-foot barrier when he cleared 5 49 m (18 ft ¼ inch). Mention must also be made of Robert Richards of the USA, the only athlete to fetch three Olympic pole vault medals (bronze in 1948, gold in 1952 and 1956)

The use of fibre-glass poles has brought quite a revolution in the sport And it is a proven fact that records have considerably improved since the introduction of such poles Man's inventive genius being what it is, one cannot rule out newer poles with which new records will be set eventually But that is a matter of the distant future Till then we shall have to be content with what we have at hand



TTFI SELECTION CONTROVERSY

Why I quit

FAROKH KHODAIJI tells HARESH MUNWANI the reasons that forced him to resign from the TTFI selection committee

IN what seems to be essentially a dispute over the actual powers and functions of the selection committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India, Farokh Khodaiji, one of the members of the committee, walked out of the meeting to select the Indian team for the Pyong Yang international, because he felt that the TTFI honorary secretary M C. Chowhan was overplaying his hand as the convener

The 39 year old Khodaiji, who became the national champion in 1966 and 1967, represented the country for nearly a decade Besides, he had earlier served as a selector from 1975 to 1978 He said, "Ranga, during my earlier tenure, never interfered in the selection process He was willing to leave it to professionals With him it was a question of trust "

"At the recent meeting I found that everything was pre-determined, who was to be selected and who was to be dropped. It was an exercise in planning and I was not willing to be a rubber stamp", mused Khodaiji

The selection committee consists of Thiruvengadam (NIS, Delhi), Jagannath (Railways), Mir Khasim Ali (Hyderabad), Suresh Gawde (Indore), R Bhandari (NIS representative) and Khodaiji (Bombay)

Chowhan, as secretary, is the convener of the committee and Gawde is the co-ordinator, but his role, however, is not exactly defined For example, he does not have a casting vote as chairman

"As convener, Chowhan's authority extends to informing the selection committee as to what should be the guidelines for selecting the team If a player is not to be considered on disciplinary grounds, that's fine But Chowhan insisted on what the composition of the team should be It was nothing short of interference," said Khodaiji

Elaborating on the issue, Khodaiji said, "I had suggested that since the Pyong Yang event was not going to affect India's ranking in world table tennis, we should send a team of youngsters My argument was that with the seniors around in the team, the juniors don't get much of an opportunity and it can be really frustrating This point of view could be explained to Manjit Dua and Chandrasekhar I am sure they would appreciate it The former has been playing for nine years and the latter for five years. Whatever they could have learnt from exposure in international events, they have picked up I wanted to use this opportunity for our youngsters To prove my point let me give you an example At Novi Sad, Sriram did not play a single match in the team events while Kamlesh played just one With Manjit and Manmeet in the side what chances are the youngsters going to get?"



Chandrashekhar was he deliberately sidelined ?

"But Chowhan said Manjit had to go, because he was among the probables for the Asiad The government has sanctioned Rs 5 lakhs for the preparation of the team for the Asian Games and if they do not find Dua in the team for Pyong Yang, they may protest," Khodaiji said Nothing could be more absurd In the first place, it was wrong of the TTFI to write to the government to take permission to include Manjit three months prior to actual selection, even though he will be outside the 25-year age limit This was done without consulting the selection committee and was tantamount to usurping the prerogatives of the selectors Secondly, the TTFI made it out that this 25-year age limit was as per the directive of the Asian Games Committee Only recently Buta Singh clarified that this decision regarding the age was to serve as a guideline So Chowhan was misleading the selection committee

Khodaiji further revealed, "At that crucial meeting of the selection committee, the TTFI then asked me why I did not want this policy of sending youngsters to be applied to the women's event

"I replied, that our women, who are ranked number three to eight above 25, are automatically disqualified The number nines and tens are way behind Indu Puri. This gap is not so big in the men's section and they definitely have a case This was an absurd suggestion and smacked of lack of vision, but unfortunately this was how some sections of the TTFI felt.

"A classic case of supplying wrong data involved Manmeet Singh At the meeting we were supplied with a paper which said that Manmeet Singh had won all the six matches at the trial games at Patiala But Manjit Dua and Chandrasekhar told me that Manmeet Singh never played any of these matches," Khodaiji said

Of late there has been a lot of criticism because Chandrasekhar, the national champion for the last two years, was not in the team Khodaiji said, "They don't want him He was told before the selectors had met that he would not be in the team I think Chandra had a fight with Pak U Gill, the Korean coach and has hence fallen out of favour The players, before leaving Patiala, had to sign certain visa application forms Do you know Chandra was not asked to put his signature on those embassy forms? Is this not a pointer of pre-meditated decisions?"

"During the national championships, when the new committees were being selected Rajat Kathuria was told in the presence of two players that it would be sufficient for him to play the series against Viet Nam and that his request for not attending the training camp due to his examinations was granted in order to make him eligible for the team to Novi Sad And let me tell you when the selectors sat down to pick the team for Novi Sad, Chowhan explicitly said that those who had not attended the camp should not be considered In table tennis circles Chowhan isn't famous for his truthfulness That was a big blow to Kathuria The secretary had no right to make false promises without consulting the executive committee

"I know I was in a minority, but the pity was that the other selectors refused to look beyond their noses There were no discussions or deliberations Everything was pre-planned and smacked of nothing but short sightedness I figured that was not the place for me to stay, so I quit The TTFI can tell me that a particular player should not be considered for reasons other than table tennis Otherwise, the selection committee's verdict should be accepted in toto I have nothing against Manjit Dua At! I feel is that they have different rules when it comes to Chandrasekhar

"It was at this point that Chowhan flared up and said that the selection committee is a sub-committee and that the executive committee can over-rule its decision I told him 'sorry, but that's not true ' This was against all norms of sport and seemed to be a unique and isolated case Further, Chowhan wasn't allowing the other selectors to discuss these issues It was at this stage that I got up and walked out," Khodaiji concluded.

NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Shivnath proves himself

RUNNERS at the 15th National Cross Country Championship may have had few complaints about their board and lodging but they were far from sure that they ran the correct distances In the junior and senior boys section, the distances were more than stipulated, but in the men's, women's and junior girls' section the course seemed to have shrunk

Organisation, it seems, is a widely misunderstood term in Indian sport The organisers of this championship failed to utilise the facilities offered by the Steel Plants to the comfort of the participants Even though the participant's hotel was a proverbial stone's throw from the stadium, the morning races got going rather late at 7 30 a m and the evening races a little early at 5 30 p m At these hours the sun shone untolerably

However, there was one man among the 450 odd participants who refused to be overawed by the bungling of the organisers Shivnath Singh, who was dropped at the last minute from the Tokyo-bound Indian track and field team in June, gave a sharp rebuke to the officials who had discarded him on grounds of creeping age

Not even the pilot jeep which obstructed his path could deter the veteran in his efforts Shivnath, representing Steel Plants, ran a well-judged race and followed the leading bunch of Dasrath, Harjit, Inder and Gurnam up to the turning point Then on he took the lead and never looked back. Before the second man, Gurnam of Services arrived in the stadium, Shivnath had enough time to go through the official formalities and get back into his track suit

Asked to comment on the race Shivnath remarked sarcastically in his own jargon *"Hum buddhe se pooch kar kya karoge?"* (Why do you ask an old man like me?) However, he later revealed that his coach Md. Illyas Babar had extracted a promise from him that he would win the race in below 40 minutes. Shivnath's faith in his coach was enough to carry him home in 39 58 3 seconds Though the distance appeared to be slightly less, yet it was a magnificent effort

On the treatment extended to him prior to the Asian meet at Tokyo an angry Shivnath retorted: *"Ye log kehte hain hum buddhe ho gaye, Agar hum buddhe ho gaye to hamen koi marta kyon nahi Jab humko koi ladka mardega to hum apne aap retire kar jayenge."* (These people say I have become old, if I have become old why doesn't somebody defeat me? The day any youngster beats me I will voluntarily retire). Seeing his excellent conditioning and his confidence we can hopefully await the re-emergence of Shivnath in the Lucknow Open in October this year

Another notable international in the race, besides Dasrath Singh, Inder Singh and Harjit Singh, was Hari Chand of Police Though Hari Chand could only finish 13th he helped his team to dethrone the reigning champions Services The balance could have tilted in favour of Services had the reigning champion Poonam Singh, who was on a tour of Russia been present Services lost by a meagre seven points

Not surprisingly, Surjit Kaur of Punjab recorded a world class performance by clocking 8 42 2 seconds for the 3km race. Once the race was on Surjit gave little chance to her rivals and finished some 30 metres ahead of



Shivnath Will retire the day he is beaten

second placed Rachna Goel (UP) The team championship in this section was retained by Railways Chhobi Shah, Leena Dutta and Purabi Dass placed, 3rd, 4th and 5th, respectively, contributed significantly towards winning the trophy

Surjit Kaur also won the junior girls title She pushed the 1980 3000-metre national champion Rekha Jain of Rajasthan to the second place However, Surjit's efforts were not enough to snatch the team championship from Rajasthan and Punjab could only finish third behind Karnataka The timings of this race were not announced to avoid embarrassment All the same, 14-year-old Surjit has enough talent to be a winner on the track in the coming years Already she has 2 18 5 seconds to her credit for 800 metres

The winners in both junior boys and girls section had one striking similarity their correct age—a rarity in Indian sport In the junior boys section, Gurmail Singh (Punjab) and B S. Hiregoda fought it out up to the entrance but the last lap sprint of the former settled the issue It was during this race that for the first time distance irregularities came to light

The course was around 6 5 km instead of 5 km Gurmail, who recently clocked 15 28 0 seconds on the track for 5,000 m, could only clock 20 31 2 seconds at Bhatinda The longer distance surprised Hiregoda and he could not win even after leading for more than 5 km He was almost a dehydrated corpse after the finish.

The discrepancies did not end here and only six runners from nine teams were allowed to compete in the senior boys section When approached for an explanation, the organisers answered that this was done at the instance of Mr J S Saini, national coach But Mr Saini denied this and stated "I wasn't even present when the race started" This correspondent then contacted Mr G S Sivia, secretary, Amateur Athletic Federation of India He promised to look into the matter and explained that no circular announcing a change in rules had been sent to the State bodies. Contradicting his earlier statement, Mr Sivia on the morrow stated that a decision had been taken earlier but the State bodies could not be intimated on time As a last minute gesture the organisers could, at least, have permitted the runners coming from far flung States to compete without taking into account their position for final standings

More unfortunate is the fact that an allegedly "overaged" participant, Gurnam Singh, an ex-railwayman, was allowed to win the race One look at Gurnam's easy paced running was enough to reveal his maturity Gurnam worked with the Railways for almost three years before leaving recently The athlete was stationed at the Shakur Basti junction in Delhi One Railway official who had actually recruited Gurnam, happened to be officiating at the finish post One remembers the days of late Mr I R Khanna, former AAFI secretary, who had on several occasions physically pulled out overaged participants

The course, once again, was longer than the stipulated 10 km The Andhra coach protested that the route was changed at the last minute Rajinder of Andhra Pradesh could have done better than a fourth position had the course been measured correctly He was the only outstation runner in the front bunch of four runners the other three were from Punjab The distances were erratic as once again the timings were not announced

Distance running is rapidly gaining popularity in Andhra Pradesh and every fortnight road races are organised at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium The response shown by nearly 200 participants confirms this No wonder the Andhra team finished ahead of third placed Delhi Punjab captured the first three places and won the team championship

LOKESH SHARMA, Bhatinda

SPORTSNEWS IN PICTURES



Renaldo Nehemiah of the United States in action during the 110 metre hurdles at the International Track and Field Meet at Zurich, Switzerland where he set a new world record of 12 93 seconds

Richard Gill of the USA, winner of the 100 metres breaststroke in the US Soviet meet, held recently at Kiev





Some of the nearly 9 000 competitors taking part in the Manchester Marathon from Manchester to Bolton and back Each competitor received a medal

McEnroe in a melodious mood the 1981 Wimbledon singles and doubles champion plays the guitar as a member of Jim McMullah band and joins the singin at a benefit party for the US Olympic movement in New York city The 1984 summer Olympic Games are to be held in Los Angeles, California



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News round-up

Rajasthan soccer dispute ends

JAIPUR: After two and a half years of faction-fighting, calm now prevails in Rajasthan football following the settlement of all disputes between the two rival groups, one headed by the former Transport Minister Dr Hari and the other led by former Advocate-General Radhakrishna Rastogi Both factions, in their bid to prove themselves the official Rajasthan Football Association, caused a great deal of harm to the interest of football in the State. Each group went to court to challenge the other's existence and the All-India Football Federation, moreover, added fuel to fire by recognising one faction for one national championship and the other for another championship.

The long dispute has now been settled, thanks to sincere efforts on the part of Thakur Magan Singh Tanwar, chairman of the AIFF selection committee and secretary of the Western India Football Federation, who was also vice-president of the Rastogi group An ad hoc body, headed by Bhagirath Bishnoi, the State Inspector-General of Police, has been formed with Hari Singh and R.K. Rastogi as vice-presidents

In fact, the president of the All-India Football Federation, K Ziauddi who came to Jaipur, dissolved the two bodies and formed the ad hoc committee in question. B R Bishnoi, who heads this body, is an experienced sports administrator and was a vice-president of the IHF for a number of years The ad hoc committee will hold elections within six months, but before that it will work to unite the faction-ridden district bodies.

According to Bishnoi, both groups will be asked to submit a list of 20 probables each, from which a team for the national junior championship, to be held in October, can be chosen

Similarly, efforts will be made to resume several All-India tournaments which have not been held for quite some time, much to the detriment of the development of the game in the State.

PRAKASH BHANDARI

Some 'novel' suggestions

INDORE: In the wake of severe criticism against both the Madhya Pradesh Sports Council and the Government regarding the stagnation and negligence of sport in the State, the senior vice-president of the Sports Council, Mr Abhay Chhajalani, said that he has already submitted a few proposals in this regard and it is now left to the State Government to implement them

"The suggestions I made are undoubtedly novel, but sadly, thus far they are not practised by any sports council in the country. If our proposals are accepted, the standard of sport will improve by leaps and bounds in the State," Mr Chhajalani told *Sportsworld*.

For the security and encouragement of sportsmen and women the following have been proposed: (1) In the case of government service, the achievements of players should be considered by allotting a special quota of marks for them at the time of selection; (2) the government should give directives to all public and private institutions that at least two per cent of seats be reserved for those sportsmen who have donned State colours in national tournaments; (3) Those sportsmen who have represented the State in Open National meets should be exempted from appearing at preliminary examinations of the Public Service Commission; (4) if the parents or guardians of players, who are internationals, are in government employment, they should be posted at such places where their children can get all the facilities to play and practise their game of interest, and should not be transferred from these places for a minimum period of five years

SUJEET MOHANTY

MP gains top players

INDORE: There are glad tidings for the MP Table Tennis Association this year It is reliably learnt that Sudhir Phadke of Delhi, the quarter-finalist in the last Commonwealth championships is seeking transfer to play for MP this year He expressed this desire during the Times of India Table Tennis championship at Bhopal recently The reason for Phadke's intention to switch over to MP has been his recent scuffle with Hukum Singh of Delhi This is indeed good news for MP whose team for men had been performing badly of late

MP received another shot in the arm when 1974 junior national champion, stylish left hander Rita Jain, who is returning to table tennis after a lapse of three years. wrote to the Railway Sports Control Board to allow her to play for MP this year It may be recalled that 23-year-old Rita Jain was once reckoned by leading sports scribes as the hottest prospect in Indian table tennis Therefore, with Rita Jain and Snigdha Mehta, the finest top spin exponent in the country now and rated by Korean coach Pak-U-Gil as the best Indian prospect at the moment, MP would have a formidable side for the women's event It is expected that with these excellent players MP would easily move on to the finals to face Maharashtra, a team, which, with such potential as Kalavathi Seetharam, Vyoma Shah, Nandini Kulkarni and Kashmira Patel seems the only other strong team in the women's group Thus Maharashtra A team and MP can be expected to prove the strongest contenders for this year's national championship.

Meanwhile, Snigdha Mehta is going to miss the Indian tour of Korea and Japan, as she is to appear at the supplementary examinations of her degree course. Her exclusion from the team has given rise to much controversy here The MPTTA had appealed to the government that a special examination be conducted for her one week before the scheduled examinations, citing the precedence set by the Punjab University which had made similar provision for a hockey player some years back when the said player was to accompany the Indian team to Perth, Australia Though the MP government, especially the Chief Minister Arjun Singh was very sympathetic towards Snigdha's case and referred the matter to Indore University with the State's green signal, the authorities of the University refused to make any such special arrangement for Snigdha.

Annoyed, the MP Sports Minister, Lt Colonel Ajay Mushran, described this decision as uncalled for The minister also added that though the university did not hesitate to change examination dates on various pretexts they failed to rise to the occasion to recognize and honour a State player who had been missing the examinations for the last three years to uphold the prestige of the nation

However, one thing should be pointed out in this context Firstly, though Indore University refused to arrange for the demanded special examinations for Snigdha, it is they who were the first to introduce in the country the provision for revaluation of papers, whereas formerly there was only the system of rechecking in effect Did not the university take the lead in making such revolutionary changes? They could have even made provisions for this special examination had the government helped the university authorities in this regard The university already conducts such special examinations for convicts in jails Therefore, is it not time for the government to do something in the manner of giving special directives to the respective universities to allow players donning India colours the privileges of appearing at special exams?

Meanwhile M. C Chauhan, secretary TTFI, has in a written directive informed the TTFI officials that a strong Swedish team is expected to tour India from December 4 to 11 this year The State association to whom the match would be alloted will have to pay a guarantee money of Rs 5000 to the federation The Swedish team comprises Anders Johansson, Per Sandstorm, Jonas England, Jonastt Berner, Heans Wrestling and Thomas Berg All these players are in their early twenties and are bound to replace the current older players like Gergley and Bengstron

SUJEET MOHANTY

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

He was the first to score this

Until the 1978-79 Tests no player from either England or Australia had made an innings of 125, 139 or 150 in matches between these countries.

Before the 1978-79 series ended one of these scores had been posted—by an Englishman.

QUESTION 1 What was the score and who made it?

It was one of the six centuries recorded in the series and shared by three Australians and two Englishmen.

QUESTION 2 Who were the century-makers?

Mike Brearley and Geoff Boycott had little success as openers in the 1978-79 series against Australia. Their best stand was 37 in the first innings of the sixth Test and their other partnerships yielded 2 and 1 in the third Test, 18 and 0 in the fourth, 10 and 31 in the fifth and 31 in the second innings of the sixth.

But it was a different story in the second England-Pakistan Test at Hyderabad in January, 1978, when they put on 185 before being parted in England's second innings.

When England began their second innings 10 minutes before the close on the fourth day they needed 344 in 340 minutes to win.

An England victory was never a possibility and the Englishmen's main concern was to play out the Pakistan spin attack that had bowled them out for 191 in their first innings.

Qadir, with his round-the-wicket leg spinners, had taken 6/44—best performance by a Pakistan bowler against England, eclipsing the legendary Fazal's 6/44 at The Oval in 1954.)

England finished the final day with one wicket down for 186, all but one of the runs having been made by the openers.

Brearley was out in the second last over of the day for 74—caught off Wasim Raja's leg spin—but Geoff Boycott, missed off a short-leg bat-pad opportunity when he was 23, went on to complete his 15th Test century. He finished with exactly 100 in this drawn match—Pakistan, 75 and 239 for four declared; England 191 and 186 for one.

The 100 earned Boycott 100 bottles of champagne from a London casino for becoming England's first century-maker of the series.

The 185-run partnership of Brearley and Boycott was the biggest by a pair of England openers since a much more spectacular stand of 234 by Boycott (84) and a dashing left-hander (185) in Sydney in the 1965-66 series.

The left-hander scored his 185 off 272 balls in 291 minutes in what *Wisden* described as "an innings of magnificent aggression." He hit 19 fours in what remains the highest score by an England batsman on the first day of a Test against Australia.

In the Australian Broadcasting Commission book *Bradman to Chappell*, Australia's captain in the series, Bob Simpson, wrote that in the 1960-61 West Indies series Sobers had played what he thought was one of the finest innings ever played in Test cricket on the Sydney Cricket Ground. (This was an innings of 168 of a West Indies total of 339 during which Sir Garfield, after moving slowly to 80, unleashed a tremendous attack on the Australians when the new ball was taken after tea, scoring 72 in as many minutes.) Simpson wrote that in the third Test of the 1965-66 England-Australia series Boycott's partner played an innings which bore comparison with that of Sobers.

"I can give no higher praise," wrote Simpson, adding, "He was almost unknown before he arrived in Australia but became the fuse which ignited the English batting on this tour. No occasion was too big or too small for him and he revealed an almost total disregard for bowlers. His innings will long remain in my memory."

QUESTION 3 Who inspired Simpson to this enthusiastic tribute—a batsman who topped the England run-getters on the 1965-66 tour of Australia with 1,001 runs at an average of 50.05?

In this 1966 Sydney Test, which England won by an innings and 93 runs—488 to 221 and 174—the brilliant left-hand opener became first victim of an Australian medium-pace bowler who went on to finish with the magnificent figures of 7/105 off 33.7 overs.

England were 303 for the loss of two wickets when the left-hand opener was bowled, his wicket starting the bowler on a devastating new ball spell which swept aside England's middle batting.

In eight overs he took the wickets of Ken Barrington (1), Colin Cowdrey (0) and Mike Smith (6) for 14 runs and with his first ball on the second morning he had David Brown caught by Wally Grout for one.

QUESTION 4 Who was this bowler, whom Richie Benaud has described as "one of the finest medium-pacers to play for Australia"?

The 1965-66 series saw the introduction to Test cricket of a player who became the sixth Australian to score a century against England in the first innings in his first appearance. He made 155 in the first Test and followed it up with another century in the second Test—115—becoming the second Australian—Bill Ponsford was the first—to score a century in each of his first two Tests.

His captain, Bob Simpson, said he was unquestionably the man of the series and added, "It was not so much his technique that took the eye but more his cool and confident approach."

QUESTION 5 Who was this batsman who finished the series with an average of 68 from these scores: 155, 22 and 115, 23 and 35 not out, 0, and 60?

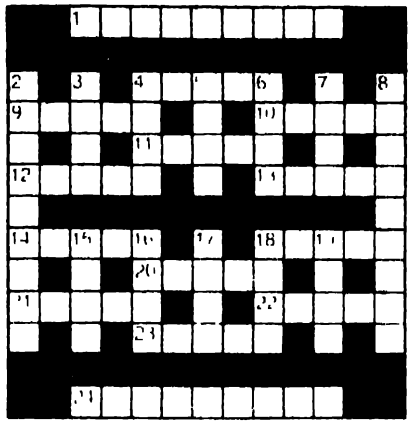
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Nazar Mohammad, in the second Test of the 1952-53 series between India and Pakistan. 2 Jackie McGlew, 255 not out, in the first Test of the 1952-53 New Zealand—South Africa series, in Wellington. 3 Frank Worrell, in the third Test of the 1957 England-West Indies series, at Trent Bridge. The match was drawn after a magnificent fightback by the West Indies, for whom O G (Collie) Smith made 168. 4 John Edrich in the third Test of the 1965 England-New Zealand series.

Crossword

Gridmaster

114



ACROSS

1 "The Fortnight" (9)
4 Remnant of broken branch on cricket field (5)
9 Tennis player also part of imaginery cricket trophy (1,4)
10 Connors affectionately returns (5)
11 Nadia Comaneci, Kathy Renaldi and Rajesh Dani are still in their—(5)
12 More than one pit of stomach in boxing (5)
13 Highest ordinary adult male voice (5)
14 Bal just fails to make it (5)
18 Hanif Mohammed's cricketing son (5)
20 Japanese gymnast now has extra circle (5)
21 Everything is all right at the beginning for this tennis player (5)
22 This Plate are a South American Association Football Club (5)
23 Impetuous beginning of match (5)
24 Tennis player starts before lunch (1,8)

DOWN

2 This game makes money in the middle (9)
3 Repose upwards on billiards table (4)
4 Groups of golf clubs (4)
5 Be in this International Badminton Championship (4)
6 Letters dispatched on football and hockey field (4)
7 Wonder-boy Lakhani (4)
8 If there is an ice-berg on earth it is him, it is him, it is him (5,4)
15 Lauda's Christian name (4)
16 A roe is lost while modelling (4)
17 A team finds its way up (4)
18 What—of a game is tennis ? It is a ball game (4)
19 Make of aircraft ascends (4)

Quiz

Ron Greer

QUESTIONS

1 Whose record would Borg have equalled if he had won the men's singles title at Wimbledon this year?
2 Who has to his credit the record number of singles title in Grand Slam tournaments?
3 Who had the better record in Borg McEnroe encounters before this year's Wimbledon final?
4 Several players were sent off in the 1968 Olympics Soccer final How many?
5 In which year did the Triangulars of Indian cricket start?
6 And in which year did the "Quadrangulars' start?
7 Can you name the British bowler who twice bowled the great Ranji out for a duck in a match in Poona in 1898?
8 Which cricket league competition in India commemorates a great Parsee batsman?
9 Which international soccer star was nicknamed Golden Head ?
10 Who was the owner of the dog Pickles who recovered the stolen Jules Rimet Trophy?

SPORTY



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 113

B	R	E	A	K				S	L	I	D	E
A				A				T				I
L				T		S		I				G
L				A	S	T	O	N				H
S	I	D	E	S		A		T	R	E	A	T
			D		N	B	A		A			
			W		I		I		H			
			I		S	I	R		I			
M	A	N	N	A		N		A	M	I	S	S
O				M	A	D	A	N				C
S				E		U		T				R
E				S				I				U
S	C	U	L	L				C	R	E	A	M

ANSWERS

1 William Renshaw (who won from 1881 to 1886)
2 Roy Emerson who won the Australian final six times between 1961 and 1967
3 Borg who led 7-5
4 Four players
5 1907
6 1912
7 L M Deas
8 (Dr H D) Kanga league competition of Bombay
9 Sandor Kocsis of Hungary
10 David Corbett

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Dhirendra Kumar, Bhagalpur
Q. Who was the first Indian batsman to score a double century in Test cricket?
A. P R Umrigar

U. Rajan, Katnasgarh
Q. A bouncing ball hits the batsman's chest While it is falling down after hitting his chest, the batsman catches it himself and throws it down Is the batsman given out for handling the ball?
A. Only on appeal, he can be given out 'Handled the ball because he willfully touched it
Q. When is a no-ball declared? If the bowler's toe has crossed the line, but not the heel, then is it a no-ball?
A. If no part of the bowler's front foot is grounded or raised behind the popping crease, it is a no-ball

Manoj Mehta, Calcutta.
Q. What is the record of Chandu Sarwate and when did he make his Test debut?
A. Chandu Sarwate played his first Test vs England at Manchester in 1946 and in 9 Tests thereafter scored 208 runs at an average of 13 00 and captured 3 wickets conceding 124 66 runs apiece

Samit Shekhar, Muzaffarpur (Bihar).
Q Who made the fastest century for India?
A. D N Sardesai, who reached his century in 127 minutes in the 4th Test vs New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65

Arun Mourya, Amravati.
Q. If the ball is collected by the 'keeper after delivery and he whips off the bails by his foot when the batsman is found out of the crease, is the batsman out?
A. Not out The wicket-keeper can break the wickets with the hand while holding the ball or by throwing the ball on the wickets, but not by his legs

Subir Pal, Burdwan.
Q. Who is the first woman umpire in India?
A. Miss Mehra, who had passed the State umpire's examination from Delhi

Ashis Roy Choudhuri, Jalpaiguri.

Q. If a batsman hits the wickets of the non-striking end, trying to save himself from being run out, will the batsman be declared out?
A. No, if he breaks either wicket accidentally He is out only when he breaks his wicket in the act of playing at the ball

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Solvers of 'sure-trick' problems (where there is a certain route to success, whatever the distribution) are familiar with the potential of a suite of A Q 9 facing three low cards After drawing trumps and eliminating the side suits, a lead towards the A Q 9 guarantees two tricks. You simply cover the card played in front of your honours and the other opponent is end-played, forced to concede a ruff and discard or lead into the remaining tenace position It looked as though last week's quiz was based on this idea These were the East/West hands with West declarer in six spades.

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q 7 6 5	♠ K J 8 4 3 2
♡ J 9 4	♡ A
♢ 5 4 3	♢ A Q 8
♣ A K	♣ 8 6 4

However, when the hand came up in match play, one declarer followed the elimination plan Trumps, hearts and clubs all disappeared and then came the low diamond from the West hand But North put up the ♢ 10 and when the Queen lost to the King South was able to return a diamond safely Unlucky perhaps, for the play would work if ♢ K were right or, indeed if North had been unable to play an intermediate diamond on the first round

The West player at the other table found a slight improvement Or, to be more accurate, he remembered a slight improvement for, after inspecting dummy he announced "I've seen this theme before!" Well, this was the full deal

	♠ 10 ♡ K Q 9 7 6 ♢ 10 7 2 ♣ Q 9 5 2	
♠ A Q 7 6 5 ♡ J 9 4 ♢ 5 4 3 ♣ A K	N W E S	♠ K J 8 4 3 2 ♡ A ♢ A Q 8 ♣ 8 6 4
	♠ 9 ♡ 10 5 3 2 ♢ K J 9 6 ♣ J 10 7 3	

How did West give himself a distinct edge? You may have heard of a manoeuvre in squeeze play known as 'transferring the menace'. (And by that I do not mean persuading your regular partner to play for a rival team)

De Lange won the ♡ K lead, cashed ♣ A K and drew trumps Then he ruffed ♣ 8 in hand and led ♡ J After all, North was marked with ♡ Q after his lead, and he duly covered Now West came back to hand with a trump and led ♡ 9 If North had produced ♡ 10, declarer would have been reduced to trying his luck in diamonds However, North could not cover ♡ 9 and now dummy's ♢ 8 went away It was now a 'loser-on loser' play, and the contract was assured, for South was left on lead

This week's quiz: A reader asks "What are attitude leads, and have they any advantages?"

Chess

Peter Clarke

Owing to its very complicated nature, measured in millions of possibilities, chess is a game of many surprises That explains why even the best players, striving not to overlook anything important, sometimes think for an inordinate length of time and then get into clock trouble The risk of being surprised is greatest when your opponent is unquestionably stronger, and in such a case it may prove extremely hard to suppress the feeling that every enemy move will bring you a shock. Of course, nothing of the sort may happen, but then, having been lulled into a false sense of security, you are liable to a rather jolt than ever. The following game, it seems to me, proceeds along these lines. The Icelandic grandmaster, facing one of the most formidable tournament competitors of all time, was doing well enough until he unaccountably gave up his KP for a wing pawn. Then, just as he went to undermine the opposing pawn centre, he was knocked down by a paradoxical move whereby Black himself broke up his pawn chain but the initiative in the ending passed into Korchnoi's hands and quickly gained him the decision

White **Gudmundur Sigurjonsson;** Black **Viktor Korchnoi** French Defence (Wijk aan Zee, 1980)

1 P K4, P K3; 2 P Q4, P Q4
3 Kt Q2, P QR3; 4 KKt - B3, P QB4
5 QP x P, B x P; 6 B Q3, Kt - QB3
7 P - QR3, KKt K2, 8 0 0, 0 0
9 P QKt4, B R2, 10 B Kt2, Kt Kt3
11 P B4, P Q5

Korchnoi prefers complications to the simpler 11 P x BP, 12 Kt x P, P - Kt1, and White replies in the same style (for damning) 12 P B6 followed by, Kt - B4)

12 P K5?!, QKt x KP, 13 Kt x Kt, Kt x Kt
14 B x RPch, K x B: 15 Q R5ch, K Kt1
16 Q x Kt, P - B3, 17 Q K4, P - K4
18 P - B4? . . .

Although logical, this fails in a surprising way, 18 Kt - B3 was good for

18 . . . P B4!, 19 Q x KP, R K1
20 Q - Q5ch, Q x Q; 21 P x Q, R K7
22 B - B1 . . .

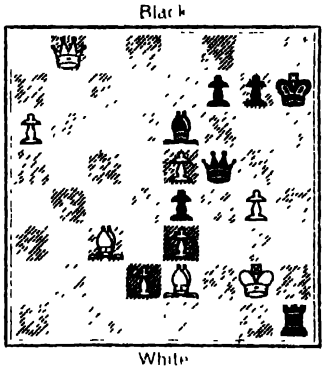
If 22 Q5 Q1 then ?? b C x Pch

22 . . . P Q6ch; 23 K R1, P QKt4
24 Kt B3, B Kt2, 25 R Q1, B x P
26 R x P, B x Kt, 27 P x B, R K8ch
28 K Kt2, R - Kt8ch, 29 Resigns

The white King is in a mating net after 29 K - Q3, K - B2

Competition G483. Solution next week

Black



White

Black to play and win Grade 4 (hard) Prizes of £10 for the first three correct solutions Send yours, on a *postcard*, to Chess Competition G483, *The Sunday Time*, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT, by June 20

Solution to G482 (Petrosjan, A. Grigorjan, Erevan, 1980). (r5k1/pp3p2/2p2npB/q2nNb2/3R4/1P4P1/P4PBP/Q5K1 White to play.) The clearing of the long black diagonal, to enable White to mate at K Kt7, was achieved by 23 R x Kt, Kt x R (if 23 P x R, then 24 Kt - B6ch), 24 B x Kt, K - R2, 25 Kt - B4 and Black resigned

Problem No 1148. Solution next week

V. F. Rudenko (Pravda, 1958) **(4b3/4B3/1K3p2/2RpkP2/3NpN2/3PqP1B/1Q6/2b1R3 - 11 white men, 7 black)** White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1147 (Fabel). (8/1p1p4/1Pkp4/2bN4/8/5K2/4Q3/7n mate in four.) 1 Q - Q3 (zugzwang) (a) 1 Kt - B7, 2 Q - B4, Kt - Q6, 3 Q - QR4ch, K x Kt, 4 Q - K4, (b) 1 B x P, 2 Q B4ch, B B4, 3 Q - Q R4ch, P - Kt 4, 4 Q - R8



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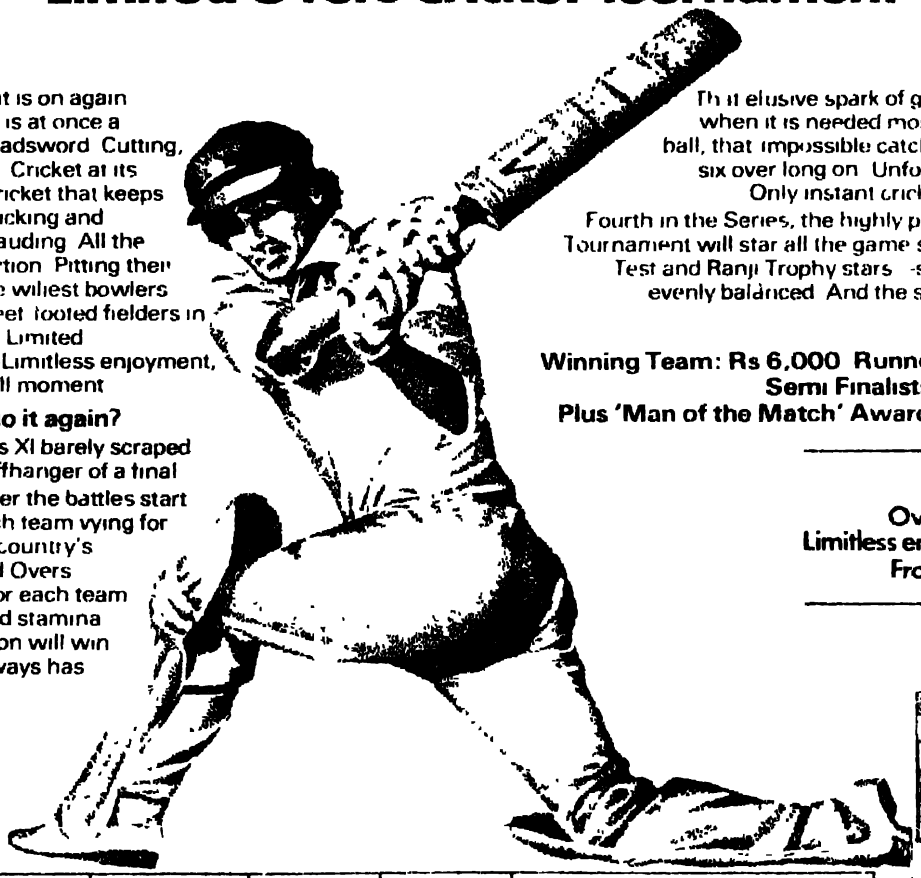
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	2	Sep 30	Nagpur	Hyderabad vs Bengal
	3	Sep 30	Jaipur	UP vs Board President's XI
Semifinals	4	Oct 1	Indore	Wills XI vs Winner of (1)
	5	Oct 2	Jaipur	Winner of (2) vs Winner of (3)
Final	6	Oct 4	Kanpur	Winner of (4) vs Winner of (5)



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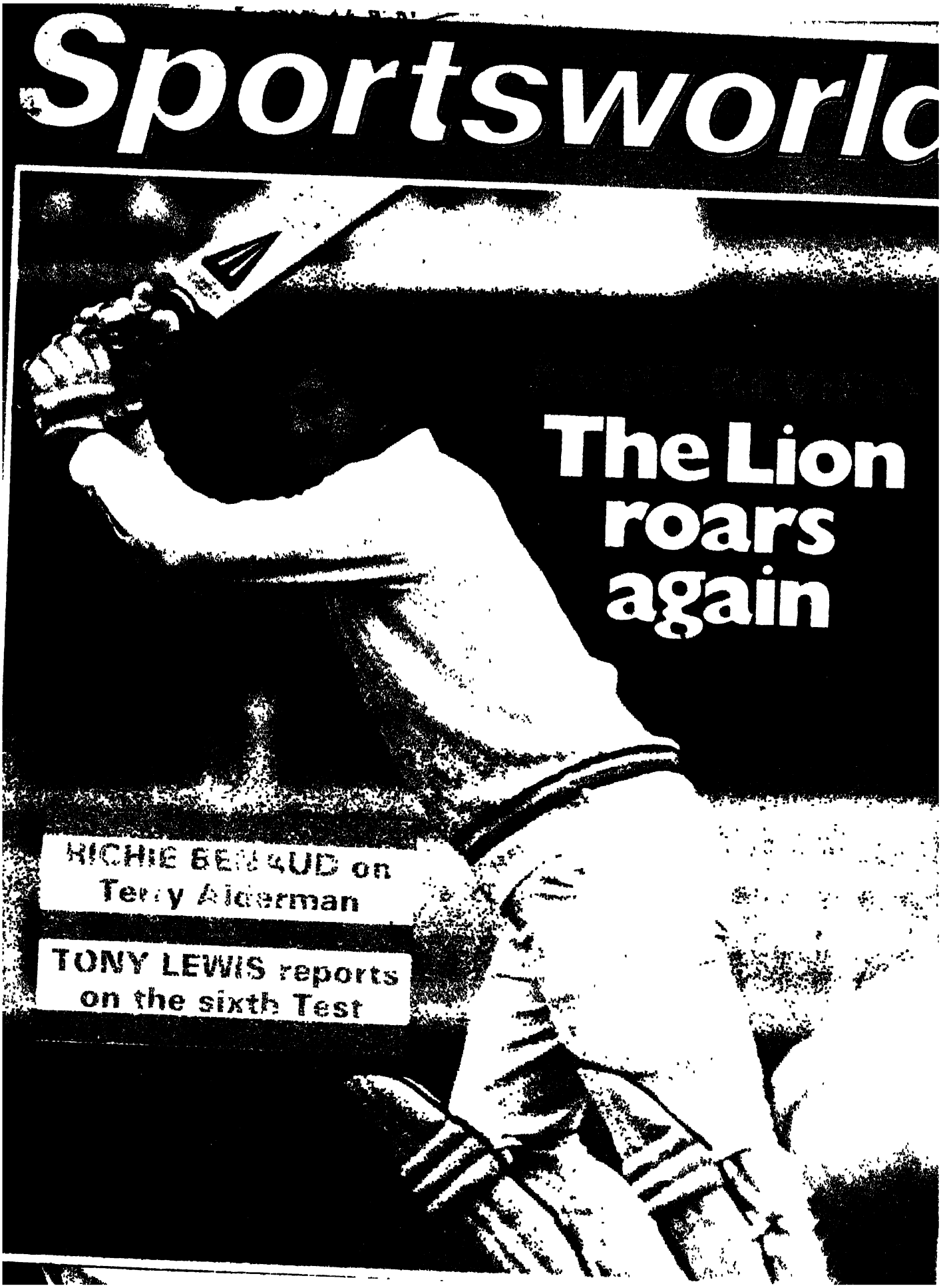
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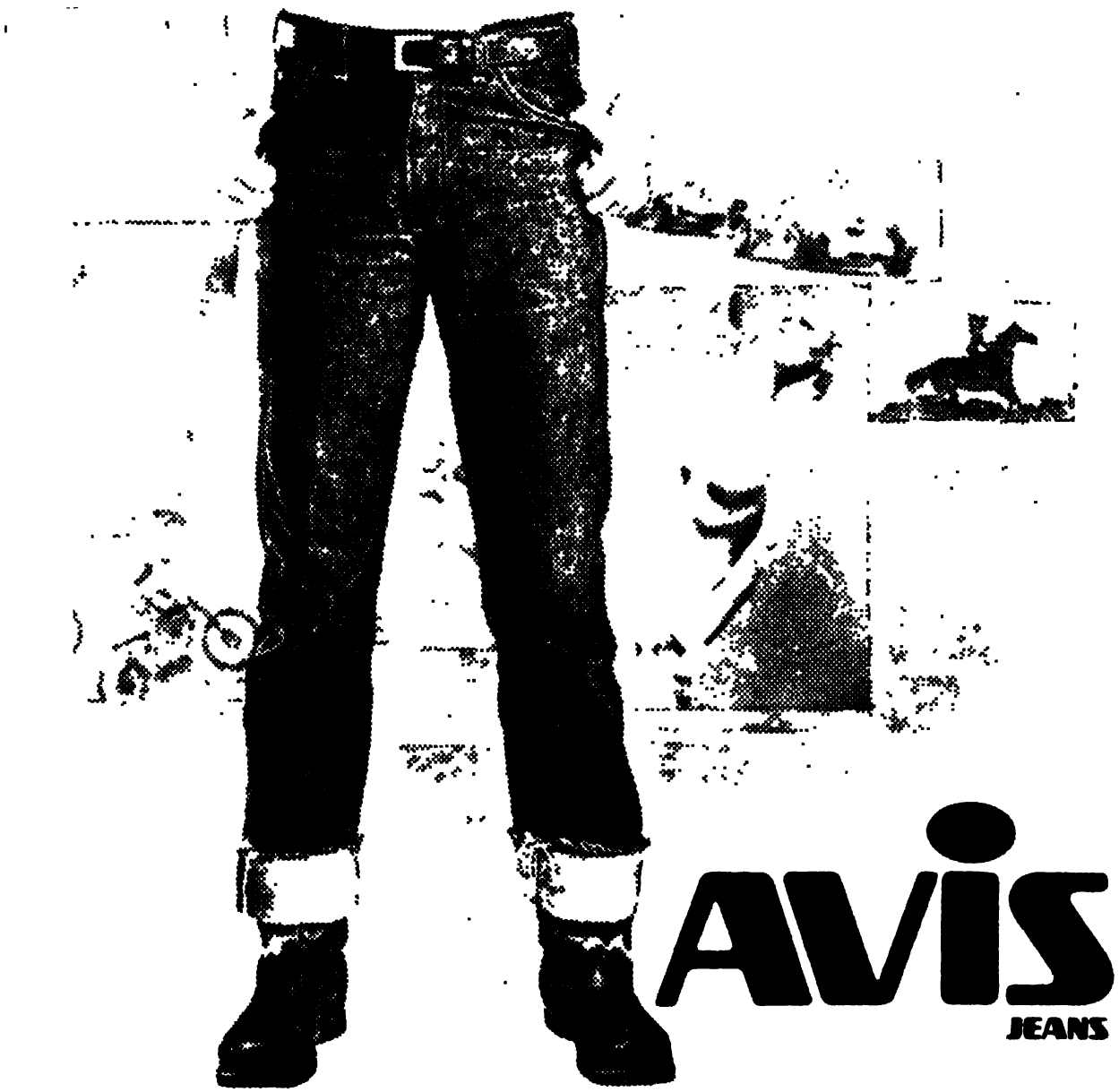


The Lion roars again

RICHIE BENAUD on Terry Alderman

TONY LEWIS reports on the sixth Test

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VOLUME III ISSUE 48 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Rs 2



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20 THE RISE OF TERRY ALDERMAN Without a doubt the most sensational performances in the Ashes series were those by Ian Botham However Alderman's dream debut was not to be overlooked RICHIE BENAUD and ASHIS RAY assess the talented young bowler

34 GALLANT FIGHT AGAINST CANCER Four decades ago, Ghous Mohammed became the first Indian to reach the quarter-final stage at Wimbledon Today he cannot speak because he is stricken with tongue cancer ASHOK KAMATH met him to conduct a most unique interview



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Letters to the Editor

Unfortunate

It is really unfortunate that a great sportsman like Bishan Bedi should have made objectionable remarks against Sunil Gavaskar - another great contemporary of his

I feel that Bedi would have been dropped from the first Test against the West Indies in 1978-79 but for Sunil At that time Bedi was nowhere near his own form

I P KANNAN
Dindigul

MUCH has been said and written after Mr Wadhwaney's interview with Bedi was published Some people call Gavaskar guilty and some defend him Bedi claims that he was underutilised on several occasions when Gavaskar was the skipper, but what was his attitude towards Prasanna, the silent sufferer?

We can neither call Gavaskar a saint nor can we term Bedi such But our sportsmen should not encourage such attacks It is unfortunate that our favourite players have often come against their fellow team mates This should be deprecated

ARUN MUKHERJI
Hooghly

THE exclusive interview with Bedi appearing in July 22 issue fully exposed the nature of irresponsible journalism I was shocked to read the unjust allegations against the man whose loyalty and dedication to the country is beyond question It is unfortunate that such an interview, which greatly endangers the existing team spirit was published in a magazine which ranks among the best in the world

P S MONY
Trivandrum

Courageous

THE profile of Sandeep Patil in the issue of August 26 revealed certain interesting facts about this young cricketer The various statements made by Patil indicate the courage he possesses This is what is needed to become great in any field But there is certain incomplete information about him First, it is not mentioned how he played in the second innings of Bombay in the 1975-76 Ranji Trophy Secondly it was not known how he played, when he was asked by Milind Rege to bat at No 3 for Shivaji Park Gymkhana

SANJEEV MEHTA,
Calcutta

Editorial

THE August 25 issue of *Sportsworld* carried a magnificent editorial, reflecting Pataudi's dexterity and clear conception of cricket But *Sportsworld* is not just a cricket magazine So your editorials should also comment on other games

KAMALENDU DE
Batanagar

Rare feat

IAN BOTHAM should be congratulated for his recent feat of scoring 2,000 runs and grabbing 200 wickets in the recently concluded series against Australia Only two other all-rounders in the history of Test cricket have achieved this rare feat viz Sir Gary Sobers and Richie Benaud Botham should cross Benaud's tally of 248 wickets but I wonder whether he will be able to break Sobers record of 8,032 runs

SOUMYA CHAUDHURY
Calcutta

Congrats

EXTEND my heartiest congratulations to Raju Mukherjee for his excellent article on Mike Brearley in the issue of August 26 The article was a superb one revealing the many aspects of Brearley

UMABHA DAS
Baruipur

RAJU MUKHERJEE's article made interesting reading He deserves great praise for his excellent article on Brearley The article not only depicts how skilful Brearley was as a captain but also that he draws tremendous respect

from his team-mates This is fully revealed by the incident where Brearley signalled Botham to go two yards further back in the slips

However, Brearley has never captained England against the Caribbeans so this leaves us to conjecture what he would have done against the mighty West Indians

VIJAY CHORGHADE, Pune

Remarkable

SARAJIT DEB's article, "Rocking the boat violently", published in the issue of August 12 was remarkable in the sense that it unfolded the reasons for the quarrel and tussle between coach Santo Mitra and the Iranians Please continue to publish such interesting articles

SUKHARUP KUMAR SAHA, Kurseong

Excellent

THE article, "The hoax of amateurism", in the issue of August 26 made excellent reading The colour blow-ups of Sandeep Patil, Karsan Ghavri and Kapil Dev in recent issues of *Sportsworld* were also remarkable

VIVEK DOGRA, Secunderabad

Suggestion

IN view of the forthcoming tour of the English cricket team to India, I have a suggestion regarding the selection of the Indian cricket team As the elder players of the Indian team show inconsistent form, it is high time that the young players should be given chance to show their talent At least they will not be as unpredictable as the senior players of India

However, for guidance of the inexperienced players, a few experienced players should be retained in the team. So, we may try such a team for the first Test against England Sunil Gavaskar (to be retained mainly for captaincy), Chauhan, Srinivasan, Patil, Srikkant, Kirmani Kapil Dev, Yograj Singh, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Doshi and Sunil Valson

SUBRATA CHOUDHURY, Assam

At last

SO Sri Lanka has finally got Test match status This was long overdue. The performance of the team in recent years was ample proof of their rising standard With seven countries playing Tests, there should now be room for more tours With India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka so close to each other, other countries can be encouraged to make combined tours Also, a triangular tournament including the Asian Test-playing countries can now be staged. Sri Lanka's admission should also encourage the other associate countries to try harder

As far as Sri Lanka, it is indeed a pity that Anura Tennekoon, the man who did so much for Sri Lanka cricket, has retired Perhaps, he can still be called back to lead in a couple of Tests

Interestingly, Sri Lanka finished ahead of India in both the Prudential Cups. Now that they are full members, will it mean that India will have to qualify for the World Cup?

JAIMIN M BHATT, Bombay

Excellent

BEING a regular reader of your magazine, I follow with great interest your coverage of County cricket, which is excellently reported While most readers have complained about stuffing the magazine with too much cricket, I have a different grouse I think the editor, who has played a great deal of cricket in England, is still under the hangover of his cricketing days in the English summer

The editor should now think in terms of encouraging Indian cricket also, by giving match reports of various zonal games.

DEEPAK JAIN, Jaipur

Unjustified

JOHN BENAUD has criticised Sunil Gavaskar, in the issue of August 19, for losing his temper and inciting a walk-out But I am sure, Benaud would have done the same thing had he been in Gavaskar's place. Gavaskar had been suffering from a famine of runs in that series He found his form at Melbourne and so it must have been all the more frustrating when he became the victim of a dubious decision Further, the Indians suffered because of the distressing standard of umpiring in Australia

It would have been much better if Mr Benaud had kept his criticism to himself, because we have a better knowledge of our own problems

H ANAND, Calcutta.

JOHN BENAUD's article on Gavaskar forms a timely warning for our preparations for the forthcoming series against England Gavaskar's dismal performance in Australia proved again that he is vulnerable against genuine fast bowling He will have to work hard to cope with Bob Willis, who has recently regained his old touch, and the vicious swing of Ian Botham

There is a growing campaign in India, following the example of Botham, that Gavaskar should be relieved of the burden of captaincy so that he can fully devote his attention and concentration to his batting and regain his old form Since Gavaskar is not an astute captain, he must voluntarily give up the responsibility of captaincy for somebody else and play as an ordinary member of the team

R VASUDEVAN, Kalpakkam

Quota system?

THE Indian team for the Merdeka clearly reveals the much talked-about quota system It should be remembered that the main objective to send the team was to prepare for the 1982 Asian Games But the team does not contain the best available players and some of the promising players of the season have been excluded from the squad, namely Subrata Bhattacharya, definitely the best stopper in the country; Manash Bhattacharya, the most promising forward and one of the fastest; and Prasanta Banerjee, who played a great role for Mohammedan Sporting this season If this trend goes on, one cannot hope that India will perform well in the Asian Games

ARIJIT GHOSH, Calcutta

Congratulations

HATS off to Mohammedan Sporting for heading the Calcutta League table after a lapse of 13 years Special credit should go to coach Abdus Sattar, skipper Moidul Islam and, of course, the other players Bhaskar Ganguly has once again proved that he is undoubtedly the best goalkeeper in the country today But a request to the Mohammedan Sporting side—don't be too cock-a-hoop because there are other tournaments left Besides, pride always comes before a fall

PRABAL GUHA, Baljan North.

OUR patience paid off and Mohammedan Sporting are once again at the top Keep up the good work!

WAZI NASEEM, Calcutta

HATS off to Bhaskar Ganguly for making that spectacular save in that last match against Rajasthan and also to Manash Bhattacharya for scoring the match winner All the players fought gallantly and helped Mohammedan Sporting to remain at the top

SAILESH PATTANAYAK and ALOKE SANYAL, Dantan, Midnapore

VIJAY AMRITRAJ did a great job by defeating John McEnroe, the holder of the US and Wimbledon titles, in the Canadian Open Vijay has defeated all the top players but had never won against McEnroe and so this was a great feat indeed

RAJESH OMPRAKASH, Ahmedabad.

Badly treated

WE are very perturbed to note that the three Iranian players of East Bengal are facing a great deal of "torture" at the hands of the club coach, officials and supporters It is quite clear that these players were either provoked by some people or they are not feeling comfortable in the club It is indeed a great shame that after signing on these players, they are being insulted. We feel proud that Majid and Jamshid came forward to donate blood on August 16, in memory of those who died last year

PRAHLAD GHOSH, Calcutta.

The Sporting Life

CHARGE OF THE FIRE BRIGADE
New York: The latest electronic game to hit the market is called 'Fireman'. It involves catching a baby falling out of a burning building and bouncing it into an ambulance all in one smooth action If you miss, a bleeper sounds and an angel appears, which means you know what

THE NAKED TRUTH
Athens: A Swedish holiday maker caught swimming in the nude on a beach near here was jailed for 10 days It was the first arrest since the new law was passed outlawing nudity on Greek beaches. The sharp young arresting officer was—a police woman

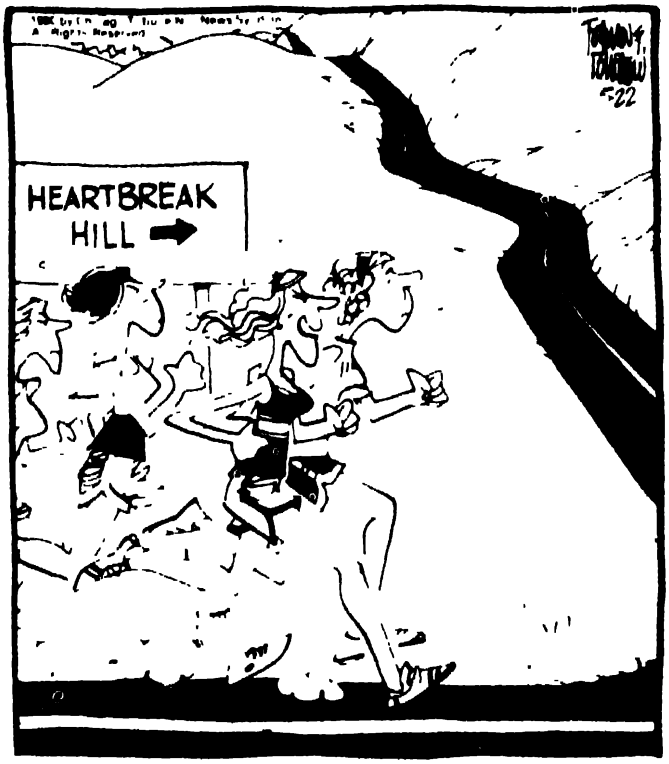
THERE'S 'NOTHING' TO 'CHUTING
Muskogee: Parachutists with nothing flapping in the breeze but their bare bodies and chutes, shocked officials at the National Parachuting Championship The six men and four women looking like tiny specs descended from a height of 3,000 ft, holding hands Said Jack Bergman director of the event "It's never happened before and we'll make sure it never happens again" The ten have been ejected from the U S Parachute Association for "naked violation of convention"

SOME 'BODY' SPECIAL
Wembly: Biceps were bulging and pecs (pectoral muscles) were pulsating at the Wembley Conference Centre as Tarzans and Janes competed in the 1981 European Body Building Championship The International Federation of BBs whose slogan is "Body Building is important for Nation Building" say it's a serious sport, not a beef-cake contest, where participants show off their muscles, balance, physique, posture and poise in set poses The audience cheered every body—especially the female.

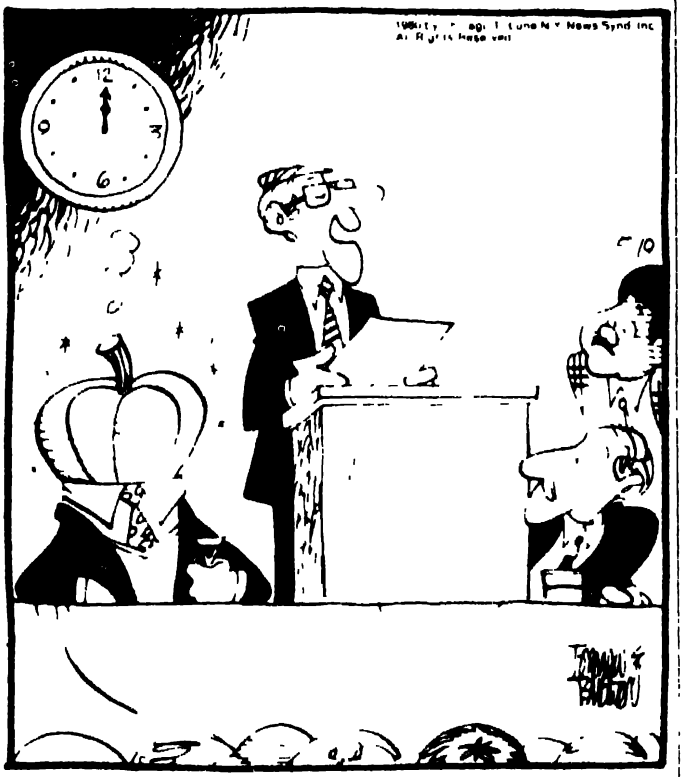
THEIR CRICKETING YEARS
Bangalore: Congress(U) President Devraj Urs "They (Cong-I) are batting now We'll have our turn of batting too " But who s bowling?

BERNIE TELLIS





"HERE'S WHERE WE SEPARATE THE WOMEN FROM THE GIRLS!"



"AND WE'RE PLEASED TO HAVE AS OUR SPECIAL GUEST TONIGHT THE COACH OF A GREAT CINDERELLA TEAM."

Derbyshire win Natwest final

ASHIS RAY reports from London

THERE is a lot to be said in favour of limited-overs cricket. It demands highly adroit captaincy albeit of a defensive kind. It has catapulted catching and ground fielding to a remarkably dizzy height. Vastly improved running between the wickets. And last but not the least, guarantees a positive result to spectators.

But when a match is decided with the aid of a leg-bye scrambled in the fashion of a rugby 'try', one wonders if this is really cricket. Those accustomed to the short lived thrills of soccer—and this is no slight on the game for I am an unabashed football fan—would probably deem it as exciting, and it was precisely such an effort executed off the last ball of the day, that fetched victory for Derbyshire in the Natwest Trophy final at Lord's on September 5.

Chasing Northamptonshire's score of 235 for 9, Venkataraghavan's former County reached 234 for 6 with a ball to spare. Sensing the importance of that one run, since Northants had lost more wickets, Geoff Cook, quite astutely, ordered his field to close in order to prevent that single. In other words, the challenge for Tunnicliffe, who was taking strike, was to beat that in-field, which if he succeeded in doing, the match was his. But Jim Griffiths bowled one on a near-perfect line and length, which the batsman failed to connect and was instead rapped on the pads. And as the ball ricocheted away, Geoff Miller backing up smartly, covered his ground and then dived forward to make absolutely sure he wasn't going to be run out. Perhaps, a shy at the bowlers end would have earned better dividends, but once the initial bid came a cropper, an alternative attempt was a non starter. And, so, by virtue of losing fewer wickets, Derbyshire lifted her first over-limit title and her first crown of any kind since winning the County Championship in 1936.

Peter Willey, a gritty batsman



The sunny day began with Barry Wood winning the toss and putting Northamptonshire in to bat. Indeed, Cook and Larkins made a nonsense of the move by realising 99 for the first wicket. The latter out paced his partner, but departed from the scene when caught brilliantly at square leg by Miller off Wood for 52. Cook, however, continued in a captain's vein, impressing in particular with neat on side strokes and the controlled steer to third man to notch up 111, which was only the fourth century in a Gillette Cup/Natwest Trophy final. The previous holders of the distinction being Geoffrey Boycott, Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards. In fact, the essay earned Cook the man of the match award, and in all probability, a serious consideration in the selectors' discussion regarding the squad for India.

But the advantage built up by the openers was soon frittered away. Allen Lamb, Peter Willey and Tim Yardley were all run out, and the rest of the batting caved in rather tamely to reduce Northamptonshire from 204 for three to nine down for 235. This, in sixty overs, hardly represented an unattainable target. But Derbyshire, too, made heavy weather of their task, which, if anything, contrived the eventual dead heat.

For Derby, John Wright of New Zealand the South African, Peter Kirsten, were, not unexpectedly, the main contributors. Indeed, the pair put on 123 runs for the second wicket to lay a handsome foundation for victory. But both made their exits in the same over—Wright for 76 and Kirsten for 63—leg before to young Mallender. Then, with three more wickets going down, and the overs



Wayne Larkins of Northamptonshire and England in delivery stride

Player of the week

Geoffrey Cook

WHEN a man becomes only the fourth batsman to get a hundred in a Gillette Cup or Natwest Trophy final, he certainly deserves greater attention than others in the week the performance took place. My vote for player of the week is without hesitation Geoffrey Cook, captain of Northamptonshire and the centurion at Lord's.

Northants did not win the match, but Cook's display, quite emphatically, stood out as the best individual showing in the inaugural Natwest final. Not only did he get more runs than anybody else, but looked safer than all the others. And none of the bowlers could really match his feat. Not surprisingly, therefore, he took the man of the match award.

Cook, 29 years old, made his debut for Northants in 1971, and earned his cap four years later. For quite some time, he has caught the eye with his correct technique, and his inclination to play straight instead of attempting side shots. Indeed, this penchant for the arc between cover and mid-wicket remains a feature of his game, although a slight emphasis for the on-side has been noticed as well as a certain amount of improvisation when it comes to playing over-limit cricket.

Highly respected for his capabilities, he has been hired by Eastern Province in South Africa for the past three winters, and in fact, captained this side last season. Indeed, his highest score in first-class cricket was hit in the Currie Cup in 1978 against Northern Transvaal.

Akin to previous summers, he has again been in the reckoning for an England cap. But the right score at the right time has seemingly eluded his grasp. Now, of course, he has made the grade, a well-deserved break, to say the least.

ticking away steadily, a slightly foreboding 19 runs were required off the last 12 balls.

In the second last overs—sent down by Sarfraz—Tunnicliffe hit two fours and 12 runs were collected in all. Seven to get off the last over, and Derbyshire obtained one less, but that was enough to call for the champagne at the end of one of the longest days in cricket. Indeed, by the time the prize distribution took place, the sun had receded well below the horizon, and it was in uniquely, moonlit splendours that the crowd made their way back home.

It was by no stretch of imagination a quality contest. And I would differ with commentators who imbibed stimulation from that concluding episode. Furthermore, it was poor batting rather than incisive bowling that led to the collapses. But akin to most one-day affairs, the tie unleashed a heady brand of ups and downs which added another chapter to the extraordinary twists and turns of the 1981 season.

But, perhaps, there's more to come. A photo finish appeared to be on the cards in the Schweppes County Championship, with Nottinghamshire, Sussex and Somerset, maintaining an uninterrupted winning streak in their last three engagements. Notts, who are at the top of the table, lead Sussex by four points while Somerset with a match in hand (20 to their rivals' 21 - have 253 points, 26 points behind Sussex. If one of the three cracks then Nottinghamshire look the likeliest champions. But let's wait and see.

The John Player Sunday League seems to be no less complicated. Here, Warwickshire scored a crucial win over Kent, but still lagged behind Essex by two points, who duly disposed off Middlesex. Warwickshire can retain their title only if Essex lose their last game, while the former win their's.

Sportsworld Exclusive

Hughes exercised too much charity

TONY LEWIS, the former England captain, reports on the final Test

THE Oval Test match was much more like a normal match than any other of the series which was coloured by many collapses The pitch was good, level enough to play handsome strokes, springy enough to give the fast men lift if they were strong enough to dig the ball in, and on the fourth and fifth days, the two spinners, John Emburey and Ray Bright, got some turn.

It was still a mystery how so many batsmen contrived to get out The techniques throughout the series have been poor too many England players looking to steer the ball to third man, showing only half of the bat's blade, fell to slip catches Australia were no more certain outside the off stump either. In the series of six matches, there have been 100 catches in either the gully, slip or wicket keeper areas That is an unusually high proportion Blame the batting, but also observe the high proportion of lbws, 43, and another conclusion has to be reached—that the pitches have been more than usually responsive to the faster seam bowlers.

Although, England had already won the series The Oval was packed with cricket-lovers knowing that these two sides were incapable of playing a dull match. The gates were shut before the start on the first three days The takings at The Oval of £ 295,000 were second only to Headingley's £ 389,297.

It was hot too, and it was astonishing to see Mike Brearley decide to put Australia in to bat when he won the toss It was proved to be a wrong decision He expected the recently relaid pitch to respond more immediately to the faster bowlers The decision almost lost the match Just think, Brearley had only four specialist bowlers in his side, including one spinner He also removed Australia from the position they have grown to fear, of batting last in search of winning totals.

This was a match of huge individual performances. Of Australia's first innings of 352, Allan Border scored 106 not out. This was an innings of the best vintage His defence was straight and brave. He refused to be hemmed in by Brearley's close field to Emburey, but rather than play across the line, he made ground down the pitch and drove many splendid straight fours through the mid-off and mid-on areas. Unluckily he was stranded with the tailend batting When Whitney, the last man, went to bat, Border had scored 80. Brearley tried to give Bor-



Graham Yallop sweeps an English spinner to the boundary

Allan Border cuts powerfully for four runs



der the single to get at the number 11 who had only two ducks behind him in his short Test career. Border blocked three an over. In came the fielders to save the one. Whack! Border crashed the ball through or over the cordon and then even had the stand among the very best.

Meanwhile, that man Ian Botham was taking six wickets for 125 and holding a couple of catches for good measure. He was responsible for the dismissal of no less than eight opponents in the first innings

When England batted it was the turn of the old rivals Geoff Boycott and Dennis Lillee Lillee has given the nod to advancing years. His hair is thinning on the crown. He has suffered the physical setback during the tour of a viral pneumonia, he bowls off a shortened run, but even so, beneath the coloured headband lurks all the old fire and the sheer animal instinct for being on top.

So too Boycott, patient, stoical, under his blue helmet and under all



Lillee in umpire Bird's cap

the protective padding. He does not know how to not to try. He was somewhat inelegantly thrust back on his stumps by Lillee bouncers but he would prefer that position to a seat in the dressing room. He got 137 in the first innings These two may never again face each other. Lillee got Boycott for a duck in the second innings, but luckily The Oval stage was wide enough for both of them to take their final bows with bouquets. Lillee took seven wickets for 80, and 4 for 70.

The next hero on stage was Dick Wellham. In his first Test match, he scored a century in the second innings, 103. Yet so long was his progress through the nineties that Kim Hughes had to delay his declaration overnight. Instead of bowling some overs at England on the fourth evening, he settled for the last day target of 383 to win in



Martin Kent does a highstep as he gets out of the way of a flier

five hours plus 20 overs. Hughes exercised too much charity. He should have closed the innings with Wellham short of his hundred, a cruel decision to have to make, but in the context of winning the game Australia lost their way

It took only a couple of fighting defensive innings by Knott and Brearley to save the match.

England now prepare to meet India, and Australia Pakistan. Both teams are vulnerable, but I should warn India that there are members of the England side who are capable of brilliance, Gower and Gooch with the bat, Willis with the ball, and if Ian Botham has a good day with either, the effect is likely to be so devastating, the match could be won or lost by him alone. He was made the Cornhill man of the series by Alec Bedser

But I do not need to remind Indian cricket lovers about Botham He was the one who spoiled the Golden Jubilee party by ending it with a day to spare, contributing the small matter of 6 for 58 and 7 for 48 and scoring 114 He is that sort of fella Worth watching.

ASHES SERIES REVIEW

The Lion roars again

But, says Ashis Ray, the only silver lining as far as Australia is concerned is that this tour has thrown up plenty of talent which will serve the country well in the near future

THE Australian cricketers left England obviously disappointed at having failed to win a series they were well placed to ensnare at one stage And with it, they lost the opportunity to regain the Ashes they surrendered here four years ago

But they will be remembered for being participants in a contest which has provided a real shot in the arm for the game in England The series that has just concluded has provoked a welcome revival of public interest, conspicuously lacking in recent summers, even last year when the West Indians were the tourists

First of all, the Aussies, seemingly down and out after the loss of the first one-day international, snatched a victory in the second limited-overs meeting with just two deliveries left and went on to register a comfortable success in the decider England, the most experienced over-limit side in world cricket, had been vanquished by a team still looked upon as novices in the art of one-day cricket

Many felt the result was a flash in the pan, but a reminder to the contrary soon followed when England lost the first Test, and despite the drawn second Test at Lord's, the signs of desperation were clearly on the wall

The exacting demands of nine Tests against the West Indies in a span of ten months was beginning to upset the concentration of the leading English batsmen, namely Geoff Boycott, Graham Gooch, David Gower and Peter Willey And even the great Ian Botham looked incapable of recovering his touch Indeed, he got a "pair" in the second Test, and more important, seemed to be totally without inspiration as a captain

At this crucial juncture, the England selectors did what was somewhat unexpected Press speculation had generally centred around the institution of Keith Fletcher as skipper, bearing in mind his suitability for India But Alec Bedser and company preferred the recall of the tested Mike Brearley, and it worked like magic

NOT surprisingly, of course, the Middlesex man gave nothing away as captain, and marshalled his resources impeccably in two very tight situations at Headingley and Edgbaston and in more easier circumstances at Old Trafford To top it all, he played a match-saving innings of 51 in the final Test at The Oval to ensure no diminution of the 3 1 margin

Looking back on his achievement, however, Brearley, not untypically, strikes a philosophical cord. Assessing the series in *The Sunday Times* he asserted "Post-natal depression is

Man of the Match Dennis Lillee and Man of the Series Ian Botham exchange congratulations



fairly common for mothers, and students often have a similar experience after exams There is also, I find, post-Test let-down, even when we have won. A medal is a feeble symbol of the value of creative endeavour, and the pleasure of winning is mitigated by awareness of the fact that the gloom on our opponents' faces could so easily have been the feature of our own."

Admittedly, matters could not have been narrower than they were at Headingley and Edgbaston, but a side needs a bit of luck to escape, and escape twice, so closely But, to a large extent, the man who made the difference was the rejuvenated Ian Botham Here, too, the credit goes to Brearley for his success in pulling his team-mate out of the dumps and restoring him to his old savagery as batsman, bowler and fielder But the fact is that the Somerset all-rounder's extraordinary comeback nipped in the bud all Aussie aspirations, and to the chagrin of fans Down Under, Kim Hughes' youthful band returned home a defeated lot

Botham's sensational exploits began with his butchery of the Australian attack on the unpredictable wicket at Headingley Only a man of exceptional technique could have survived the track in the fashion of Botham Indeed Boycott's masterly adherence to the book fetched him but 40 odd runs, which left just one route open to the all-rounder—to take a chance and blast away With fortune smiling on him the ploy worked like a miracle, and Australia who were eventually set a target of 131 to win, failed miserably in their bid

At Edgbaston, on the fourth and what turned out to be the final day, Australia stood at 105 for four needing 151 to win It was all over for England, bar the shouting or so it seemed But Botham, in an inspired spell, picked up five wickets off 28 balls for one run And Australia had been demolished yet again

The tourists once more made a hash of their batting in the first venture at Old Trafford, but were fast neutralising the disadvantage in the England second innings when the home team lost five wickets for just 104 Almost inevitably, Botham entered the scene at this point and collected 118 runs in the most astonishing fashion

Unlike his essay at Headingley, this was not merely a slog, but a demolition of the bowling in the most scientific fashion Indeed, the knock could rank as one of the greatest ever played Statistically as well as aesthetically, it can have few peers in the history of the game And as was automatic, it put the issue beyond doubt and kept the Ashes in England's possession

Many in the cricketing cosmos have been forced to eat their words as a result of the revival of Ian Botham But, perhaps, none as humbly as Greg Chappell Sitting in Australia, the former captain, remarked after



A resurrected Tavare he proved the ability to build an innings

Botham's resignation from the captaincy that "he will never come back, even as a player" The undercurrent of hostility between the Chappell family and the Englishmen is quite well known The story goes that during the eldest Chappells considerable amount of Pommie-baiting some years ago, Botham grabbed Ian Chappell by the collar and shoved him off a bar stool After this, the Chappell's probably have nothing to say now about Botham, nor do they relish his obvious brilliance Indeed, they must have been very pleased at his rapid decline Anyhow, whatever the background, Greg Chappell has been made to look a bit of a fool after Botham's revival

ALONGSIDE Botham's pyrotechnics, there was another factor that contributed immeasurably to England's ultimate triumph This was the resurgence of Bob Willis Sent back from the West Indies for a knee operation, the Warwickshire captain appeared to have played his last Test

But back in sterling form in the County games this season, he was again accommodated in the fold, but at the same time, seemed to be lacking his old fire He, however, captured 8 for 43 in that vital fourth innings at Headingley, and continued to push the visitors onto the back foot in each of the succeeding Tests, which in English conditions is a real bonus He was able to uncoil that extra pace, which, barring Lawson, no other bowler in either side could unleash

Hughes, Graham Yallop and, to a

Alderman has his stumps shattered by Botham in Australia's first innings of the final Test



lesser degree, Allan Border are twice as dangerous when permitted to settle into a front foot rhythm Willis, simply, did not give them the opportunity to do so. A moment of depression, then, for Australia And it is impossible to defend their showing in the third and fourth Tests Inexperience can be no excuse for failing to score 131 and 151 runs, the second of the challenges on a comparatively easy wicket

But they can console themselves on two counts One, that they were handicapped by the weather in the early part of the tour and when it came to tackling difficult surfaces, like the one at Headingley, they were found wanting And second, that the visit has given rise to a mushrooming of new talent—a feature likely to prove more beneficial to them in future than any similar development in the opposite camp

Terry Alderman, for instance, finished with 42 wickets—a record for an Australian bowler against England—and is now an established Test player, if ever there was one. Dirk Wellham announced himself with a century in his maiden Test appearance at The Oval, and Martin Kent, with half centuries when the chips were down midway through the series, looked a very complete batsman Geoff Lawson, too, impressed with his speed and control, and might have exerted a greater influence on the series but for his injuries. Also had Rodney Hogg been fit as well, Australia might have had a tremendous influence on the series.

Of course, the more seasoned campaigners, barring Dennis Lillee, Border and to a certain extent Yallop, disappointed grossly. But given decent conditions—which was a rarity this summer—the batsmen displayed their wares quite attractively And Lillee, when he finally recovered from his illness and functioning at full throttle, demonstrated in no uncertain manner what an amazing bowler he is. He captured 11 wickets at The Oval, and ended the series with a career-best haul in England of 39. His close friend Rodney Marsh served up excellent support to him behind the stumps and enjoyed a magnificent series.

The fact that Chris Tavare came good, and significantly enough, spent long hours at the crease for his efforts, is, no doubt, a happy development for England. Equally satisfying for them has been the fruitfulness of Mike Gatting's gutsy approach. And Boycott, too, amidst a lot of worries, swam through to calmer waters at The Oval with that hundred But if Gooch and Gower don't click in India, England could be in real trouble.

Moreover, the bowling looks a bit worn out It is certainly time for Graham Dilley and Paul Allott, if they are picked, to take over in India. But they do not evoke the kind of confidence emitted by either Alderman or Lawson Botham and Emburey will need sustenance.

So, a grand resuscitation of the game this summer, when even the vexed question of slow over-rates receded into oblivion. But the issue of too much cricket remains a burning topic. The surfeit of outings is causing inconsistency in the best of players, and a shortening of the career spans is likely to be a sequel to all this But with no one interested in restricting income, this will persist in being the order of the day There is a threat that the novelty of Test cricket might gradually wear out, but who's worried about all that?



Paul Parker falls to a sharp catch by Martin Kent

Good Heavens!

DAVID McMAHON takes a look beyond the pearly gates at the reaction to England's Ashes win in the recently-concluded series

SAINT PETER was worried He was picking up a lot of static on his short-wave radio. That sort of thing just wouldn't do at the best of times, and with the Ashes in the balance, it was bordering on heresy Almost like fiddling while Rome burned and that sort of thing.

So he gathered up his robes and left his office. He knew—or so he thought—where he would find the man he wanted Saint Peter was in a hurry There were a lot of new arrivals that had to be processed but they could wait. After all, this was a special series, wasn't it?

He picked his way across the field till he came to a shady tree Sure enough, sitting under the tree in his favourite deck chair was the person he was looking for The good doctor, with his bushy black beard, doffed his cap as Saint Peter approached

"By Jove", he shouted as Saint Peter hurried up, "That chap Brearley really has them on the run, eh? Better reserve a special place for him up here. You could give him a pass to the Members' Enclosure, alongside me Probably make him feel all that running around in the sun down there was worth it after all," he added as an afterthought

"Dr Grace!" exclaimed Saint Peter (it would have been terribly infra dig to refer to the legendary cricketer as simply "W.G." or some such thing) "This young lad Botham. What do you think of him? Playing so well, bless his soul"

"Do a lot better if he played the hook with more care," said the doctor gruffly It was clear that he did not like non-cricketers praising these young pups "Seems a good chap Pity he's so young, though We could have done with an all-rounder like him up here It's been a long time since we won the annual festival match against the Hades XI "

"Yes," agreed Saint Peter "They have whipped us soundly the last seven years and even you got a duck last year "

The doctor shifted and mumbled something darkly. It was clear he did not like to be reminded about his failures at the crease, even in these surroundings But it was true They had been humbled every year for seven seasons now

"It seems a great pity that so many of the greatest players had to find their way down there, doesn't it?" asked Saint Peter helpfully

But the good doctor only grunted noncommitally Saint Peter had given him a particularly gruelling session during the pre-entry interview and it was rumoured at the time that the only reason he had been granted entry was that Heaven's batting side was beginning to need a little shoring up.

The subject needed changing and Saint Peter was one of those born diplomats who knew just how to do it, even though he didn't know the difference between a leg-cutter and a yorker. So he just said "I thought I'd come and listen to the commentary on your radio. Mine is picking up a lot of static."

"Australia are losing wickets like nobody's business Our fellows are simply mowing them down but that young chap Border is playing up stinks with our bowling. As far as the others are concerned, it's like shooting rats in a barn Easy as hell"

Saint Peter coughed pointedly. It just wasn't done to use those metaphors up here

The doctor realised he had made a faux pas and he stroked his beard distractedly He was searching for something clever to say, but could think of nothing appropriate. The arrival instead of Percy Fender saved both men from an embarrassing silence



Illustration Sujata Gangopadhyay

"Lovely weather for cricket, isn't it, Doctor?" greeted Fender "Aha, I see you're tuned in Hope we're thrashing the living daylights out of them"

"We are, we are," replied the doctor "The point is, it's all getting a little boring now If these chaps would fight—not too much, of course—it would help where gates are concerned Besides, an Ashes series just isn't what it used to be in my time"

"Ah, yes, but that was a long time ago, eh?" said Fender with a fiendish grin on his face He knew very well that the doctor did not like people making snide references on that count and took a delight in doing so just to irritate him

Just then Sid Barnes and Warwick Armstrong strode past, obviously trying to ignore the three men, but the doctor, recognising the opportunity to needle the two Australians, hailed them and beckoned them over

"Things looking a bit glum, are they?" he cried out happily as the two men walked over, their eyes on the ground and their hands in their pockets.

Saint Peter, watching closely, reflected that the last time he had seen that gleam in the doctor's eyes was when he had hit an Aussie from the Hades XI for four consecutive sixes Slow left arm, if he remembered right Or was it right? It didn't make a difference anyway Point was that he was slow

"Wonder what old Ian Chappell is saying now, eh?" continued the doctor He believed in rubbing people's noses in the dirt when they were down Especially if they were Australians

But Barnes had a sense of humour "People up here say Brearley's been spending a lot of time at the altar Besides, half of England's been saying prayers for him and his side We Aussies aren't so religious That's our problem "

That kind of took the wind out of the doctor's sails He hadn't expected the bait to be taken that way So he tried something else "What do you think of Botham?"

Armstrong played that one with a straight bat "Lucky, isn't he?"

The doctor failed to realise that he was being baited now He flew into a rage, shaking his fist at Armstrong, shouting "That one lad is capable of taking on your whole side down there and tanning them "

Saint Peter, worried by the roaring, moved a few feet away

But the doctor was really worked up now "You chaps think you're cricketers, eh? You aren't even fit to take on a girls' school side"

Just then, the last Australian wicket fell and the doctor set up a great triumphant whoop England had won the Ashes, so there was no point in making an issue of it any longer

Besides, Armstrong's reach was longer than his.



"Instant Cricket is much more than chancing your arm... It is anticipating, improvising, outwitting...the opposition."

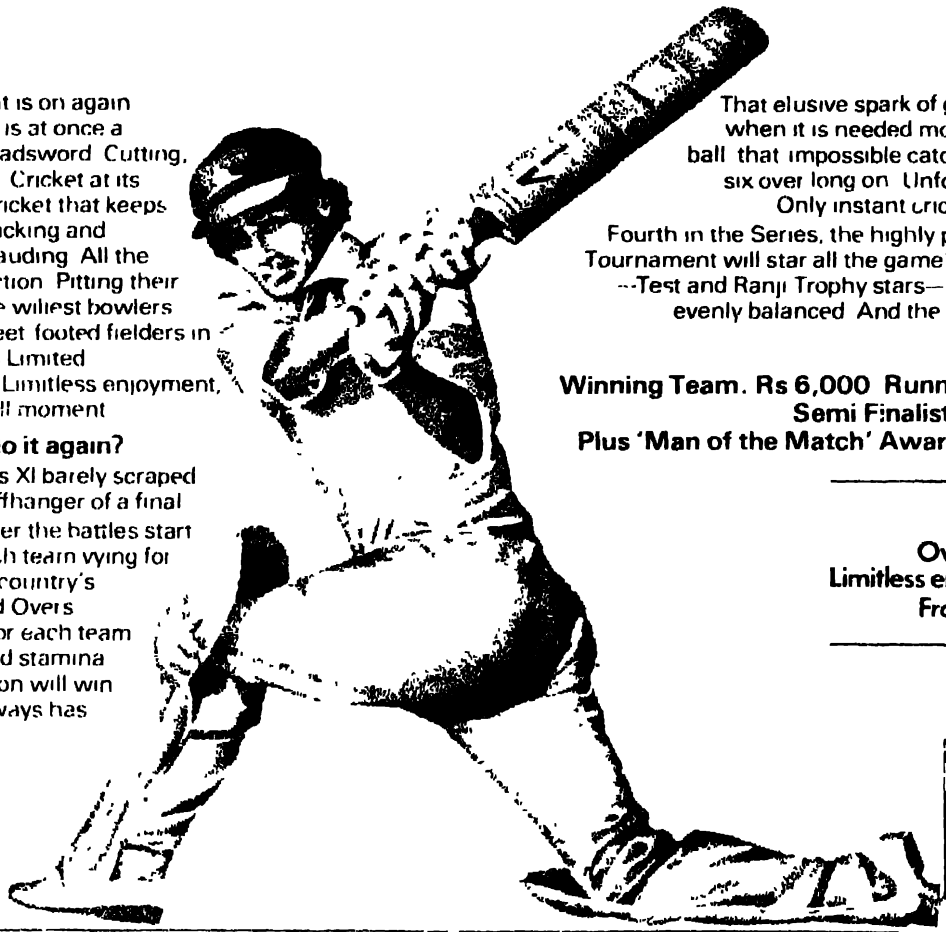
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STAGE	MATCH NO.	DATE	VENUE	TEAMS
Quarterfinals	1	Sep 30	Indore	Bombay vs Haryana
	2	Sep 30	Nagpur	Hyderabad vs Bengal
	3	Sep 30	Jaipur	UP vs Board President's XI
Semifinals	4	Oct 1	Indore	Wills XI vs Winner of (1)
	5	Oct 2	Jaipur	Winner of (2) vs Winner of (3)
Final	6	Oct 4	Kanpur	Winner of (4) vs Winner of (5)



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Headingley heroics

BOB WILLIS, who shattered the Australians with an amazing eight wickets for 43 runs at Leeds, looks back on that memorable afternoon

THE Bob Willis who walked off the field at 2.20 on that amazing afternoon at Headingley was a totally different man from the chap who switched on his car radio at 5 o'clock. Not until Henry Blofeld's fruity tones regaled me with the details of the Test did I realise what had actually happened it was me he was talking about I had taken 8 for 43 It slowly dawned on me that I had played my full part in the most astonishing few hours of cricket I had known.

Our victory was the lead story on both radio and TV news that evening The Stock Exchange closed early

Was it really RGDW— the man with the wonky knees and the no-ball problems—who had helped send the men in pinstripe suits home from the City with light hearts? Did the mandarins of Whitehall really postpone their highpowered meetings to listen to the progress of the Australian innings?

Friends tell me the effect on morale in factories, pubs and offices was astonishing—that incalculable psychological thing is something a sportsman can never really understand. We are on a plateau of self-absorption during a day's play such as that one at Headingley—and I am more involved in a cocoon of concentration than anyone. It is very difficult for a man like myself to stand aside from the emotional commitment of bowling for England and to be able to appreciate the sheer enjoyment of bowling well.

Even now, some weeks later, I am only starting to come to terms with the Headingley Test The memory of Ian Botham's marvellous innings will always remain with me Apart from the fact that it gave us something to bowl at, it was the kind of knock that "Both" alone could have played He made it look a simple game, playing beautifully straight through the "V", hitting the ball massively hard, taking chances with loose deliveries, and all the time enjoying himself as he rode along on the adrenalin of the delirious crowd

How I envy Ian's ability to say to himself "This is great I'm loving this" at the actual moment rather than hours later So full credit to Ian Botham—but Chris Old and Graham Dilley have not received their due for the part they played They were loyal lieutenants to the brilliant Botham, at the same time sensibly smashing the ball out of sight whenever possible. We needed runs from both ends, and Dilley and Old did their job splendidly

I felt that Kim Hughes could have tried the spin of Ray Bright earlier against Botham and Dilley instead of relying on his tiring pace trio But we didn't complain.

Full marks, by the way, to Kim for his gracious post-match comments to the Press and public—a pleasant contrast to the views of a certain Warwickshire and England fast bowler on the same afternoon! Kim thought I bowled just as well in the first innings (0 for 72) as on the final day I would not completely agree with that, although my first innings performance underlined again that luck plays vital part in cricket On the Thursday and Friday I beat the bat on many occasions On Tuesday the same thing happened, the batsmen got edges, and the catches stuck

Trevor Chappell's dismissal convinced me it could be my day, but the crucial dismissal came just before lunch when Botham took a magnificent slip catch to rid us of Kim Hughes. In the same over Mike Gatting snapped up a halfchance to get Graham Yallop That 40 minutes over lunch was vital for us It gave us time to collect our thoughts, to develop a collective will to win We came out breathing fire at the Aussies—a quality for which those great competitors are themselves noted

The batsmen did not quite know whether to play normally or in the Botham style When Lillee and Bright added a few precious runs it seemed as if boldness would win the day Lillee took advantage of some continual short-pitched bowling (unwise of me) and I had to reassess my line and length. The first ball I pitched up to Lillee was chipped to mid-on, where Gatting took another splendid catch

Ray Bright was expecting some short-pitched deliveries from me, but I managed to come up with the perfect ball for the occasion a middle-stump yorker I wish I could always bowl that one at will! The memory of Bright's middle stump cart-wheeling out of the ground will warm me when I'm grey, stoop-backed and nodding off by the fireside.

Yes, I loved that day Yes, I am sorry I could not instantly appreciate the emotion and atmosphere And, no, I shall never forget every ball of that dramatic Tuesday



Willis leads the England team off the field after his amazing performance

ENGLAND TEAM REVIEW

Tourists will bank on Botham

THE 15 players to accompany Keith Fletcher for the cricket tour of India, indicate just two surprises, if they can be termed so in the inclusion of John Lever and Geoff Cook. Otherwise, this squad comprises four fast bowlers, two spinners, seven specialist batsmen, two wicketkeepers and an all-rounder in Ian Botham.

The selection of Lever, who hasn't played a Test match since the first Test against the West Indies last summer, is slightly unexpected. One would have thought that Chris Old and Mike Hendrick were rather more strongly in the running for a place in the side. But their physical acumen being suspect, this probably tilted the scales in the left-arm medium pacer's favour. Lever's showing for Essex this season has not been particularly outstanding but here again his record in India—with or without Vaseline—possibly strengthened his claims.



Ian Botham, the central figure in the party

Of course, whether Lever will command a regular place in the Test side is a matter for conjecture. With both John Emburey and Derek Underwood (recalled as generally forecast) likely to be accommodated in the fold in Indian conditions, there would be just one position vacant for a fast bowler other than Botham, or at the very most, two places, if a batsman makes way for an extra bowler.

Competing for this slot or slots will be Bob Willis, Paul Allott and Graham Dilley, who to a very great extent has been picked on reputation. Lately, he has been languishing in the Kent Second eleven, completely denuded of his confidence, but, perhaps, this recognition will provide the boost he badly requires.

The batting witnesses the anticipated return of Graham Gooch and David Gower. But Geoffrey Cook is a newcomer who's been preferred to the likes of Wayne Larkins, Paul Parker and Dennis Amiss, whose name according to the chairman of the selection committee, Alec Bedser, also cropped up in the discussions. Cook, captain of Northamptonshire and last winter also of Eastern Province in South Africa, is a sound technician, and in all likelihood clinched his place with the hundred in the recent Natwest Trophy final. His nomination certainly represents a positive step on the part of Bedser and company, but at the same time, the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) could raise a hue and cry about his admission into India.

As for the gloved exponents, Bob Taylor became an automatic choice as first wicketkeeper once Alan Knott intimated his unavailability for the trip. But the choice of second wicketkeeper—Surrey's Jack Richards signals a departure from recent convention in that the man picked is essentially a 'keeper—probably the best young prospect in England—and not a batsman. It was rumoured that in view of the three one-day internationals, someone like Geoff Humpage of Warwickshire—a top class batsman—would get the nod. Indeed, Richards' inclusion might be interpreted as a slight aspersion on India's abilities in over-limit cricket.



Graham Gooch searching for his old form

So, a good, balanced English team, with Raman Subba Row—whose father hailed from Guntur in South India—as manager to embark on the tour of India and Sri Lanka this winter. The selectors have, obviously, taken into account the changed circumstances in India, and thus, chosen just two spinners. The thinking is that India are likely to prepare wickets which will suit her main bowler, Kapil Dev—rather than the slower bowlers, and with five seamers in the touring party, they hope to cash in as a result.

It's interesting that only six of the players who turned out against Australia at The Oval are retained in the squad, but there are 11 players who have been to India, and Fletcher has got the 'experience' he reportedly sought as opposed to an experimental unit. (Cook and Richards are the only two uncapped players) And he'll also be delighted that Willis, who has consistently canvassed for Fletcher's appointment as captain, will be his deputy.

Announcing the side at Lord's, Bedser defended the minor controversies in the composition by saying, "A three-month tour of India is quite different from a five-day Test match in England". Earlier he had paid a glowing tribute to Botham, who, though troubled by a recurrence of his back problem at present, is the central figure in the party. Indeed, England, irrespective of the forms of the others, will bank heavily on the success of this extraordinary cricketer.

ASHIS RAY, London

Allan Border: the Southpaw Samson

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL profiles the man on whom Australian cricket leans heavily

NORTH Sydney High School has produced a number of Australian Test cricketers, notable among them being Peter Philpott, Ian Craig and Graeme Hole. But the most famous of its products at present is without doubt Allan Robert Border.

Born on July 27, 1955, Border joined Mosman's first-grade side at the age of 16. After a few years of rigorous training he found himself making his debut for New South Wales at the age of 21. It was during his first match for the State side that his talent was officially recognised. His innings of 36 prompted team captain David Colley to predict his future emergence as one of the best batsmen produced by the State.

Colley's prediction began to emerge into reality. Soon after his State debut, Border began to play for the Gloucestershire second team, the result of a note from Brian Taber to Frank Thistleton of Whitbread Breweries. The experience on the field—and off it, too—was invaluable. Says Border, reminiscing, "Captain Mike Procter invited me to join in pre-season training. At the players' local pub I had my first pint of English ale. Some hours later they poured me out at my small flat." Out in the centre, though, Border distinguished himself with two centuries, one of which amounted to 159 for Robins XI against Cambridge University, an encounter which was ranked as a first class match.

In the 1978 Lancashire League Border turned out for East Lancashire, distinguishing himself when his side was faced with the seemingly impossible task of scoring 290 runs off 36 overs in order to beat opponents Rawtenstall. Yet the impossible was accomplished. East Lancashire won with seven wickets standing and an over to spare, thanks to a cavalier innings by Border who hit 13 sixes and 15 fours to emerge with a score of 179 not out. It was an innings which was rated as genuinely top class and in some quarters his batting style was likened to that of the great Everton Weekes.

Border recalls, "I had been a bit of a dasher but on English tracks I had to tighten up my game, watching the ball closely. It all seemed to come together. I made 2,200 runs, average about 50, and took 72 wickets. I recommend the trip to anyone thinking of going".

It was clear that this budding genius was profiting from the exposure he was getting to English conditions. Back home, in the colours of New South Wales, he earned praise from critics in a State game against Queensland. He faced a menacing Jeff Thomson with confidence and skill in equal proportions and played the role of saviour, holding together a crumbling innings by virtue of a dogged 67 in 198 minutes.

His career was nearing an important juncture at around this time. Two consecutive centuries towards the end of 1978, drove home the message to Australian Test selectors that a new player with enormous potential was on the threshold of donning a "baggy green".



Australia's hero of the last Test displays his lucky beard and a broken finger

True to form, Border was selected for the third Test against England and there began a significant new era. Ex-captain Bob Simpson described him as the most improved batsman in Australia with the mental discipline and defence needed to survive in the cruel world of Test cricket. Border failed to live up to expectations but his debut score of 29 drew generous praise all round. In the words of his skipper, Graham Yallop, "Al has great application. He plays very straight. He doesn't care who is bowling, he plays the same". Amid the adulation, Border remembered nevertheless to give credit to his English training with Gloucestershire and the two seasons in the Lancashire League to which he owes much of his success. "They improved my cricket and gave me the incentive to try my luck as a full-time cricketer."

Shortly before the arrival of the Pakistani team in Australia, Border reached a new level of perfection, which, as he was to admit later, instilled tremendous confidence in him. Against Tasmania he made 100 off only 179 deliveries and emerged the only man to score three Shield centuries that season.

It was against Pakistan that Border reached a memorable milestone of his career—his first Test ton. At Melbourne he scored 105, a gritty innings that took him all of six and a half hours. A chanceless innings, it heralded the arrival of a new Australian superstar. Border played a model innings, batting calmly and confidently against the pace attack of the tourists, spearheaded by Sarfraz Nawaz. In his 275 minutes at the crease, he hit only seven boundaries, an indication of the doughty little batsman's self-restraint.

At Perth, however, Border began to have problems. True, he got 65, but it was an undistinguished innings, when Border seemed to struggle for runs. It was the kind of innings that no one—least of all the batsman—would want to be reminded of. He got his runs off as many as 245 deliveries and survived two caught-and-bowled chances off Imran Khan at 47 and 61. When finally he was out, only sighs of relief must have been heaved by everybody present, including himself.

As a batsman, Border is stylish, aggressive, and above all dependable. He came into his country's Test side at a time when it consisted of fledglings, with the established, older stars playing for Packer's World Series Cricket. Border added an element of firmness to the national side and helped shepherd the team through many a crisis. Technically, he opted for front-foot play, the method adopted by most of his contemporaries and one used by Border to great advantage. This tactic gives the batsman a stance conducive to stroke-play. With a straight, controlled backlift, Border drives effectively while drawing on his forearm power. It is a useful technique that helps him evade the areas of risk where other batsmen have floundered.

In his career Border has faced many dangerous bowlers all over the world. But the most devastating to his mind is Jeff Thomson, of whom he says, "Thommo—he is so much quicker than anyone else. You have to get used to his pace." Second to Thomson, in Border's estimation, is Pakistani fast bowler Imran Khan. He moves the ball

in the air as well as off the ground. Even when his hand is high overhead he produces outswing that can make you miss"

Border had a prolific season during the 1979 Australian tour of India He started with a magnificent century in the first Test at Madras, at a stage when the tourists needed a big stand Border occupied the crease for 416 minutes and scored 162 alongside skipper Kim Hughes who also registered a century The young NSW batsman seemed headed for a well-deserved double century when he was tragically run out, backing up too far only to see a powerful Yallop straight drive deflected by Doshi onto his own stumps Border fell just one run behind Norman O'Neill's record for Australia in a Test against India, an innings Border will always look back on with pride

Though he maintained his form in the second Test, scoring 44 valuable runs in the first innings, he failed to find his touch in the third Test which Australia lost by the humiliating margin of 153 runs With scores of 24 and 8 in the two innings respectively Border failed to cast himself in his customary role of saviour

Border dragged his poor form on to the next Test—the fourth—at Delhi Reeling under a mammoth Indian total of 510 for 7 declared, Australia made 298 in which Border's contribution was an obscure 24 in the first innings and a somewhat improved 46 in the second

In the fifth Test Border treated the cricket-crazy Calcutta crowd to a spectacular half century, though in the second innings he could manage only eight runs before being stumped by Kirmani

Then came the sixth and the final Test at Bombay It was a disaster for Australia who suffered the heaviest defeat at the hands of India in the history of Test encounters between the two countries Critics described the defeat—by an innings and 100 runs—as abject surrender But Border was not in a submissive mood In partnership with Hughes, who scored a magnificent 80, Border struggled on to salvage some prestige, hitting a memorable 61 Australia may have lost, but in defeat Border and Hughes emerged defiant And in the final averages, Border was second only to Hughes, who had enjoyed consistent success on the tour

After his return from India, Border suffered a brief spell of poor from only to reassert himself against the touring English team at Perth in the first Test in December 1979 To avenge his early dismissal by Botham for only four in the first innings, Border hit 115—his third Test century—in the second and thereby contributed richly to Australia's victory over English by a margin of 138 runs It was an innings which not only left an impression on those who watched it but also—literally—on the batsman as well With his score on 109, Border was hit over the left eye by a rearing delivery from Graham Dilley and had to be removed to hospital for stitches After medical attention, he returned to the crease with his confidence unshaken He did, however, take the precaution of donning a helmet thereafter

In the second Test at Sydney, Border did not have much luck with the bat, but he erased memories of this failure with his scintillating 62 at Melbourne in the third Test With Greg Chappell, who was batting superbly, Border put up ta fifth wicket stand of 126 in 166 minutes, thus paving the way for another Australian victory Border finished third in the final series averages, but there were even brighter



Border acknowledges the cheers of the crowd after his century in the final Test of the recently-concluded Ashes series

days ahead He reached peak from in the third Test against Pakistan during the 1979-80 tour, becoming the first batsman in Test history to reach 150 in each innings Border scored his fourth Test hundred in 319 minutes, ending the first innings at 150 not out But that was not all He scored 153 in the second innings to round off the performance of a lifetime In fact, that was a season when Border was destined to shine Not only in Test matches but on the domestic front as well. The 1979-80 Sheffield Shield engagements saw him hit an unbeaten 200 against queensland in Brisbane, which brought him a prompt offer to join the very team he had scored the runs against. In August 1979 came the Centenary Test It was a match which would stand out among all others in the annals of Test cricket Border, perhaps keeping this in mind, was determined to do something significant and was rewarded not undeservedly He was the only batsman in that encounter not to lose his wicket, and batted in determined fashion against England's bowlers to score 56 not out and 21 not out

Australia surely did not have the happiest of times during their just concluded tour of England The most frustrating thing they could have anticipated indeed happened as England staged a miracle resurrection after losing the first Test to the tourists However, one of the few plus points for the Australians on the tour will surely be Border's performances which prompted the *Daily Telegraph* to comment, "We have seen a major new batsman in Allan Border who is turning into the key Australian player" Indeed. Border batted defiantly, often against the tide of fortune in several encounters

In the first innings of the second Test he made a steady 64 which could be seen as an indication of things to come But in the third Test expectations were somewhat dampened as he put up an indifferent show with eight and, worst of all a duck in the second

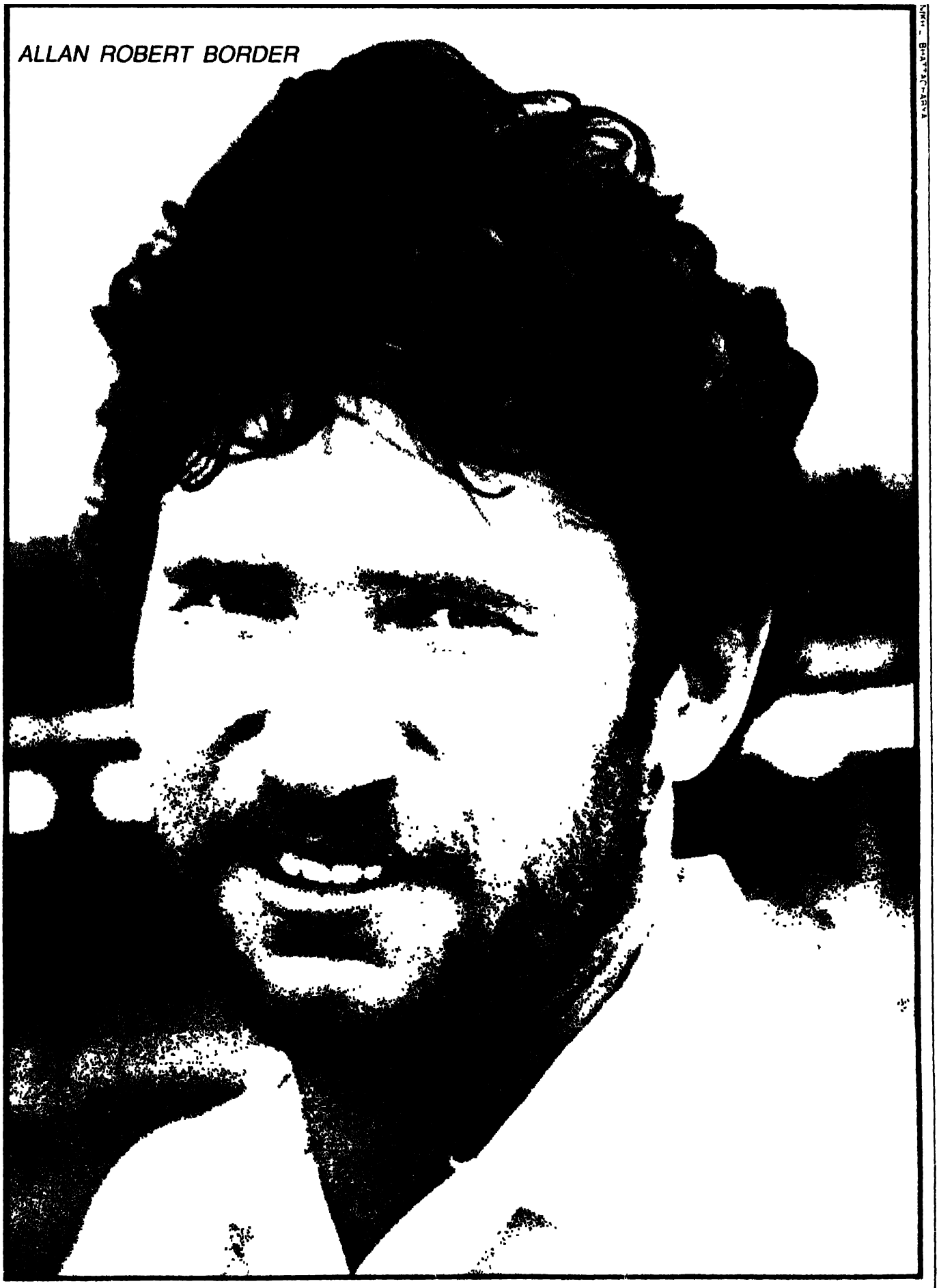
In the fourth Test trying hard to regain his touch, Border made a not-so unimpressive 40 in the second innings after batting for three and a half hours, before a straight uppish delivery from Emburey made him play forward only to be caught by Gatting

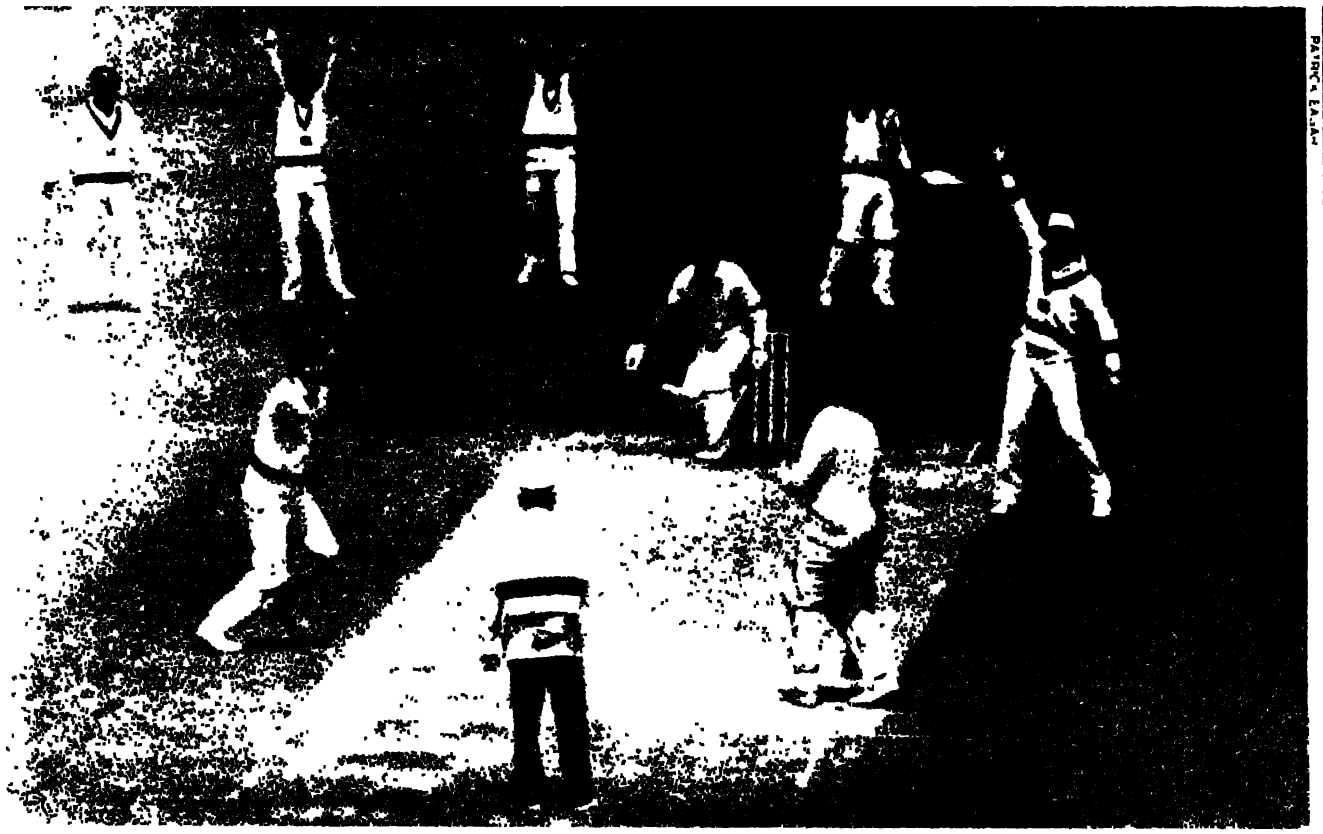
Border rose to his best in the fifth Test It was a decisive match as Brearley's boys seemed all set to clinch the Ashes But Border held his ground despite an injured finger in the left hand which was bruised once again after 40 minutes of play on the final day Australia lost, but not Border, who remained unconquered with a scintillating 128

Border carried his prolific from on to the sixth Test Firm in defence and calculating in attack he hit another impeccable innings of 106 once again remaining unconquered In the second innings too, he proved his worth and hammered the Englishmen for 84 valuable runs

Besides his obvious batting aptitude, Border has proved his abilities in other departments of the game too As a left arm spinner he had made many a breakthrough and, in addition, has proved himself an asset for his side as fielder

Need a cricketer of such calibre pay heed to any superstitions? Probably not But superstitions need no reason and feed on the success and failures of the man possessed with them Border believes that it is unlucky to shave during a match A latter-day Samson, surely, whose hirsuite appearance is the source of his stregth


ALLAN ROBERT BORDER



Alderman bowling to Dowton (low) in the first Test at Trent Bridge

The Terry Alderman success story

ASHIS RAY

MIDWAY through the last Australian season when the idea of bringing Terry Alderman to England was first mooted, a majority of cricket lovers in that country were quite surprised at the suggestion. Indeed, Kim Hughes, his State captain, is said to have remarked at that stage "He is not yet ready."

In fact, even when the squad of sixteen was announced in March, the 24 year old Western Australian's inclusion was treated as very much of a surprise by the Australian media. Today Hughes describes his teammate's performance as "phenomenal", and touring Australian cricket writers and commentators soon ran out of superlatives when talking about his feats. Unequivocally, Alderman is now the toast of all Australia.

Alderman first hit the headlines in 1978-79, when he took eleven wickets in the match against England at Perth, playing for Western Australia. But the display was on a beastly pitch, and although quite sensational at the time, it did not carve out a lasting impression. Of course, by this stage of his career, the up-and-coming player had made the important switch from genuine fast to fast medium, which gave him greater control over line and length, and more significantly, infused him with the ability to move the ball much more.

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Line great help

Alderman, in fact, came to Britain for the first time last year when he played as a professional for Watsonians in Edinburgh. "I enjoyed the experience very much. The pitches were mostly wet and slow and while I was there I learned that a good length ball is further up to the bat than it is in Australia."

The young man is one of five children in a family with strong sporting connections. His father played Australian Rules Football for Western Australia, and prior to his entry into Tests, his 21 year-old sister, Denise, had achieved the family's highest honour, opening the batting for the Australian women's side. "I have bowled at her a couple of times in the nets" Alderman remarked, smiling, "and I was very impressed too."

Alderman has light brown hair, handsome features and an amiable look about him. He used to sport a beard, and lately a moustache, but now thrusts forth a clean-shaven appearance, which lends him a youthfulness more in consonance with his years.

"When I was young I used to bowl off four or five paces, then I was given some advice by Basil Rigg, a former State player. He told me to come back and to bowl off 25 paces and to see how it went. For some time I had trouble with my run although it's better now, but I got wickets playing for Subiaco-Floreat in Pennant Cricket in Perth and ended the season playing for the State Schools' side

against Victoria in Melbourne and got nine wickets altogether in that match. At the start of the next season, 1974-75, I was in the State side and played my first game against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground I got five wickets in the first innings" But this information had to be dragged out of him for he is a modest man, unsure about his own figures and even more reluctant to divulge them

He does, however, add. "I think Alan Turner was my first victim I had him caught in the slips or gully" The latest Australian find, however, has no doubt at all that Lillee has been the biggest help to his career "Denis has been a constant source of encouragement to me. When he is fielding at mid-off or mid-on and is throwing the ball back to me, he keeps talking to me all the time He gets me thinking for he knows a hell of a lot more about it all than I do He keeps picking up things that I have missed He's been a bigger help to me than anyone"

BUT Alderman has proved himself to be mentally tough enough to cope with the disappointment which inevitably comes to all bowlers He reckons that the best thing that happened to him was being dropped from the Western Australian side "At the start of the 1976 77 season I played two or three club games and a couple of State trials I hadn't bowled well, but I thought I had done well enough to stay in the side Then I was left out It made me realise that things weren't going to come as easily as they did initially I got everything far too easy in my first two seasons. I had made the step from schoolboy to State cricket in one season Getting dropped did me a world of good"

Phil Ridings, the chairman of the Australian selectors, is said to be the man who prompted his inclusion in the squad to tour England Ridings, a very shrewd judge of the game, felt Alderman's ability to bowl within himself was greatly in his favour With Lillee and Hogg sharing the new ball, the newcomer would make an ideal third seamer and a stock bowler who could operate for long spells and keep one end going Indeed, he has turned out to be a workhorse extraordinary and a wicket-taker exceptional

He was critical of his own bowling at the start of the tour "I was diving down the leg-side at Arundel (his first outing in England) and in Sri Lanka The trouble was that I had not had enough bowling, but it was getting better against Hampshire at Southampton"

Then, with Lillee recovering from his pneumonia, at Trent Bridge he picked up nine wickets in the first Test The question as to whether Australia would be serviced adequately by the new quicks had been answered with a bang This was to be replaced again and again in the following weeks.

He exhibits a good outswinger, and the ability to move the ball both ways off the seam Throughout the tour, he bowled against the wind, and yet forced the batsmen to perpetually hurry their strokes In addition, he was brilliant in the slips In fact, his pestilence as far as Englishmen are concerned was such that he became the target of assault by Lancashire County Cricket Club members at Old Trafford during the fifth Test

The first allegation was that Alderman had grabbed a spectator after being patted on the back as he made his way back to the dressing room But as Fred Bnnett, the Australian manager later explained, "The language was pretty bad and it had a lot to do with drink Terry was grabbed and then he pulled away He is the most meek and mild guy in the party" England have, of course, won the series, and there is little likelihood of a repetition of the incident anywhere else this summer, but the respect Alderman has earned which was but reflected by the hostility towards him--will, perhaps, linger for a very long time

What does he particularly remember in his career, he was asked on his arrival in England this year "You remember any occasion you get GC (Greg Chappell) out The first time I did it was in my first or second season when I had him caught behind in Perth I bowled him an outswinger and he drove and nicked it" he is reported to have replied

That, now, will surely be superceded by the memory of this sensational visit to England "A dream," he calls it But it is a dream he has worked for most ardously, and a dream which has at last come true

Alderman is surrounded by jubilant team-mates after scalping Boycott From left Kerr, Marsh, Yallop, Hughes, and Wood (partly hidden)




Sportsworld
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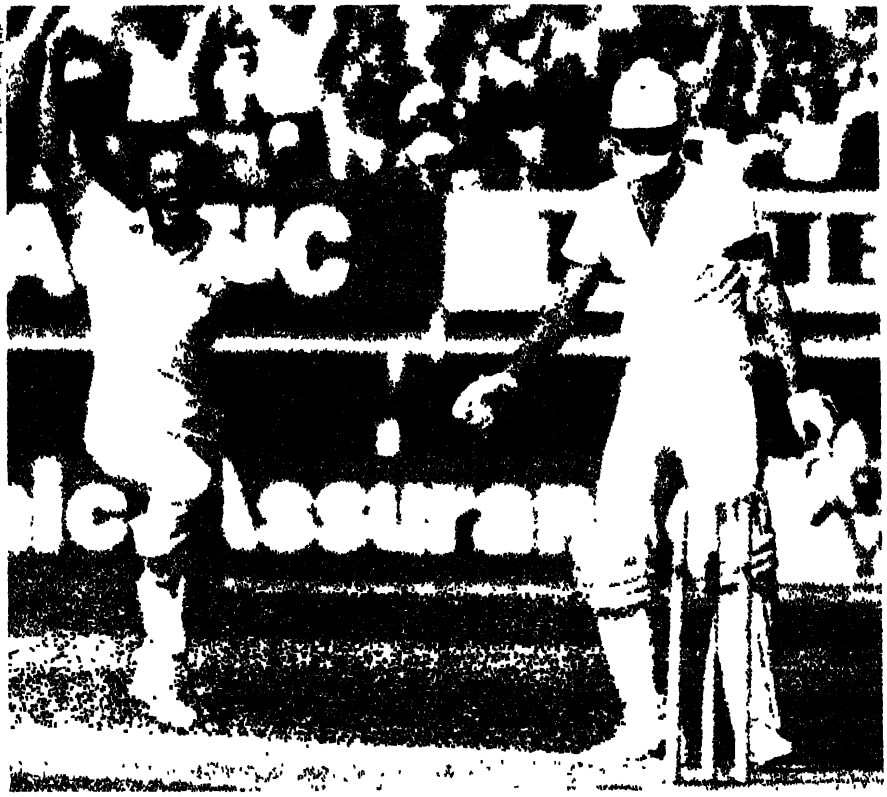


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A mind-boggling performance

RICHIE BENAUD assesses the feats of Terry Alderman, the young Australian who emerged as the sensation of the recently-concluded Ashes series



Above: On other end of the stick Alderman is bowled by Ian Botham in the fourth Test. Below: Mike Gatting takes evasive action against a liter from Alderman.



TERRY ALDERMAN's performance in England is the most sensational by an Australian bowler ever. By way of proof, just take a look at the striking rate of other Australian bowlers who have taken 27 wickets or more in a series in England.

Way back in 1921, McDonald took 27 wickets in the series, which worked out to an average of a wicket every 45 balls. Then, in 1930, Grimmett took 29 at an average of a wicket every 71 balls. In 1934 we had O'Reilly who took 28, or a wicket every 71 balls, exactly the same striking rate as Grimmett. After the Second World War, in 1948, Johnson took 27 wickets, or a victim in every 67 deliveries. Then came the great Graham McKenzie in 1964, with 29 wickets at a rate of a wicket every 49 balls. Finally, young Alderman, in his debut series in 1981, taking no less than 42 wickets at a rate of a victim every 45 deliveries.

His was a truly phenomenal display, simply terrific. And when one takes into consideration the fact that this was his first Test series, it is indeed mind boggling. True, even the great Denis Lillee was on his first visit to England in 1972 when he performed so admirably but he had already played Test cricket before he embarked on the trip to the United Kingdom.

It might be said that for a bowler of Alderman's kind, English conditions are ideal. The reality of it is, however, that he made the best of the conditions prevailing. His is a nice, easy action and he is quite sharp, much quicker than he actually looks. This fact has often had the English batsmen in a bit of a tangle.

He has a decent outswinger and a late inswinger and he moves the ball both ways off the seam. He is strictly an against-the-wind bowler and this has been a real boon for his captain. Added to this is the undeniable fact that Alderman possesses extraordinary stamina.

In this respect, the interesting thing is that three years ago, his energy was definitely suspect. Now, after the Ashes series, it is perhaps rather ironical—although good news for Australians—that he is a force to reckon with in international cricket.

Alderman is a pleasant young man, tall and strong. The selectors, I am sure, expected him to do reasonably well on the tour, although I do not think even they dared to anticipate just how well he would serve his country. Personally, I feel he will not be as successful in Australia as he has been out here in England as the wickets at home are harder and less green. But the experience and confidence he has collected on this tour will stand him in very good stead.

I don't think he will have any difficulty holding on to his place in the side, and that's saying quite a lot. Don't forget, Pascoe will be back in the reckoning next winter, over and above Lillee and Lawson. There is room only for two or three pace bowlers, yet Alderman is more or less certain to be one of them.


BRAHMANAND SALGOIKAR

Profile

Safe bet under the bar

SARAJIT DEB profiles Brahmanand Salgoikar

INJURY has been the bane of many a sportsman's existence Some have been fortunate enough to recover and continue in the limelight, others have not been so lucky, having to abandon promising careers But there remains yet another category those sportsmen who are injured and who do not know whether they will ever be able to return to the scene of their former triumphs

Included in the last category is the gallant Brahmanand Salgoikar, or Salgaoncar, Goa A custodian who has proved his mettle time and again against the best opposition, this outstanding goalkeeper would have been an automatic choice for the Indian squad to the Merdeka and also perhaps for the Asian Games to be held next year at Delhi

But luck deserted Brahmanand when he needed it most During an exhibition match among the Asian Games probables, he rushed out in anticipation of a shot, getting his left hand crushed under the boots of Rosario Antao in the process This resulted in a compound fracture and Brahmanand was rushed from Patna to Calcutta and operated on immediately A plate and screw were employed to get the hand back into shape

"When it happened, I shouted in agony, realising the extent of the injury," said the injured custodian "Now that the operation has been pronounced a success, I have the self confidence to return to the camp. Why shouldn't I? I am very strong mentally and after all, several players have suffered compound fractures and yet have not quit the game Take Md Habib, Harjinder Singh, Inder Singh, to name but a few.

"True, this is the worst injury I have ever suffered in my career, but what does that matter? I feel that I am capable of returning to the game. The last time I sustained an injury of this sort was in 1969, when I was travelling in a bus which overturned. But even that injury was not so serious by way of comparison" However, even the best team of doctors and physicians could not get Brahmanand back into shape before the departure of the Merdeka team and the question of whether he will ever play at all is still difficult to answer

Brahmanand was born on March 6, 1955 at Ribander, Goa He took to the game of soccer at a very early age and as he himself recalls, was an avid fan of the game as a schoolboy Goalkeeping came to him instinctively "I used to pick up the balls when other keepers were playing and it was at this stage that I was advised to take to this department of the game seriously," he recollected

In 1970 he made his entry into bigtime soccer when he joined the Panvel Sports Club Four years later he switched over to Salgaoncar, whose colours he still continues to don. He came into the national limelight as early as 1973 when he was included in the Goa side for the Santosh Trophy. From 1975 onwards, he has been a regular member of the Indian side, first in the junior ranks and then progressing to the senior grade. Also in 1975, he was a member of the junior India side which participated in the Asian Youth Championships The following year he donned Indian colours at the Bangkok Youth Games and the same year he figured in the senior Indian team that toured Afghanistan A rare achievement, indeed, by any standard.

This was followed by the Merdeka the same year In 1977, he toured Afghanistan again, followed by trips to Seoul, Zambia and ultimately to Bangkok to participate in the King's Cup "But I missed the 1978 Asian Games because I was sick" In 1979, he was a member of the Indian team that toured the Gulf countries Ultimately he went to Singapore to participate in the pre-Olympics last year

BRAHMANAND has been a regular in the Goa State team over the last few years and has always figured prominently in the side though he has been a trifle unlucky In the last two Nationals, at Coimbatore (1979) and Cuttack (1980) Goa lost in the semi-final stage On both they lost with the enforcement of the tie-breaker and on both occasions bowed out to the ultimate winners, Bengal and Punjab respectively. This does not mean that Brahmanand had let his side down In fact, it was just the other way

A fine study of Brahmanand about to collect the ball



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

around—though he saved a couple of shots, it was his colleagues who had failed to convert their shots.

That Brahmanand is quite capable of handling penalty kicks had become evident as early as 1977 when on the Zambia tour he saved two shots out of three and at Seoul, the only one that was taken against India Not surprisingly, therefore, he was called to the Asian Games camp where he performed very creditably till injury struck him down.

Salgaoncar have looked after him quite well. He started as a junior clerk and in the course of time rose to the senior ranks, but his employees rewarded him with a promotion to officer's grade after he represented India. In turn, Brahmanand has also done yomen service for the club. Though they have failed to win a major trophy at the national level, he has always excelled under the bar. This was again evident in the last Federation Cup at Madras. Though he let in the maximum number of goals (seven) in the quarter-final league, he saved his citadel from what looked like certain goals on a number of occasions Surely, if Brahmanand had played for a better team, his record would have been more creditable. Playing for Salgaoncar and Goa, he is constantly under pressure from rival forwards

"Yes, I do have to concentrate all the time, but that goes for all goalkeepers. Anything can happen in a split second. A long range shot might come from the midfield and if it enters the net, the blame will fall on the custodian," he said. Peter Thangaraj, the famed custodian of the Sixties, has been Brahmanand's inspiration. "He has helped me a lot, guided me. He was very safe and that impressed me a lot. Another goalkeeper who left a mark on me was Tarun Bose, who was very acrobatic. But I prefer safety-first tactics. Only when it is absolutely necessary do I go in for acrobatics. I always try to reach the ball and then hold it. When I'm confident, only then do I grip the ball, otherwise I prefer to fist it away. There's no point in creating unnecessary danger, is there?"

Brahmanand has some advice for the up-and-coming youngsters, who want to be goalkeepers "They must watch good goalkeepers in action, and try to speak to them and ask about the special training they undergo. They should get hold of someone capable of pointing out their mistakes, and gradually with time, they will learn the value of judgement. The most important aspect, of course, is to have a genuine love of goalkeeping, as well as a certain amount of confidence. The goalkeeper, being the last line of defence, has a very important role to play. Not only is he in total command of the penalty box, he can also guide the other players of his team because he is in an advantageous position from where he can watch the entire proceedings. But all this can only come, if he has confidence in himself "

One cannot help but compare Brahmanand with Bhaskar Ganguly in the course of such an article, although this is destined to raise some controversy. Both have their plus points, Brahmanand with his height (six feet) and Bhaskar with his agility. There is very little to choose between the two As Prasun Banerjee, captain of the India team that toured the Gulf countries and took part in the pre-Olympics, told me. "It is a very difficult choice Whoever is chosen to play the first match of the tour inevitably performs so well that it becomes difficult to replace him."

What does Brahmanand himself have to say about this? "I think Bhaskar should be preferred as he has proved himself on several occasions I think he did a tremendous job at the pre-Olympics. He is very good in one-to-one situations and is always ready to take risks "

The youngest in a family of six brothers, Brahmanand enjoys music in the fashion of most Goans "I really love it," he adds with a smile But he is definitely not a pessimist "I feel that the standard of the game in India is improving With proper planning and more international matches, we are bound to improve even further."

At this stage, the crucial—and obvious—question crops up again Will he recover to play for his country once more? The gallant custodian is certainly not alone in hoping that the answer will be a resounding "yes"



WORLD CUP

Brazil, Chile qualify

BRAZIL, the only country to have won the World Cup three times and to have played in every final since the tournament's inception, were the first country to actually qualify for the 1982 World Cup playoff in Spain They thereby join automatic qualifiers Spain (hosts) and Argentina (holders) by virtue of having topped Group One of South America which featured Bolivia and Venezuela as well. As a rule, all matches are played on a home-away basis, where all the teams have to play two games against each country one at home and a second on their opponent's home ground. Incidentally, Brazil won all their four matches

Brazil played their away matches first, winning both by a one-goal margin In the first match, against Venezuela, Brazil won with the help of a penalty converted by star player Zico However, the decision of the Uruguayan referee, Ramon Barreto, was a bit harsh as the foul involved a casual handball by a Venezuela defender, Zico, predictably, was the livewire of the Brazilian attack and but for Venezuela's tight defence, Brazil would have won comfortably

In their next match, against Bolivia, they emerged triumphant 2-1 in an intense match They exhibited a superior brand of soccer in the initial stages of the encounter and it was during this period that Socrates, with a fine header, gave Brazil the lead After this goal, both teams fought hard for supremacy and chances seemed about even as the Brazilians hit the post twice and the Bolivians once Just before the change of ends, Aragoena scored the equaliser with a terrific grounder but Reynaldo gave Brazil the match-winner after the interval

By way of comparison, the home matches were easy affairs for Brazil They first beat Bolivia 3-1, Zico scoring all three goals, the first from a penalty Against Venezuela, they notched up a 5-0 margin with Tita (two), Zico (one off a penalty), Junior, Socrates doing the scoring. In the first half, there was some resistance from Venezuela but Brazil put on the pressure in the second half and scored no less than four goals

In the first match between the teams that did not make it to Spain, hosts Bolivia beat Venezuela 3-0 and it seemed during this encounter that their forwards were able to find the gap better than the Brazilians Aguilar, Aragoena and Reynaldo were the scorers for Bolivia In the return match, however, Venezuela beat Bolivia by a solitary goal margin, Acosta scoring the only goal of the match

CHILE became the second team to qualify, topping Group Three of South America They remained unbeaten against Paraguay and Ecuador, the result, no doubt, of their training methods. Theirs was the lengthiest and most thorough team preparation process in the country's history and this paid rich dividends In their first match, against Ecuador on the latter's home ground, Chile played a defensive game and were successful in their mission, gaining a point

In their next away match, against Paraguay, they played defensively again, putting up a strong wall guided ably by the veteran Figueroa, back from the United States of America, where he plays for the Fort Lauderale Strikers Though Chile won 1-0, Paraguay were all over the field, attacking from the very beginning. But missed chances, coupled with poor finishing, began to have an effect on the players and at one stage the entire team moved into the attack, so desperate were they to win It was at this stage that they left themselves vulnerable and the Chilean defenders' long passes up-field spelt danger True enough, Yanez latched on to one of these and frustrated Paraguay's hopes by scoring the only goal of the encounter

As we go to press, we learn that Peru have qualified from South American Group Two, eliminating Uruguay and Colombia.

As was the case with Brazil, the home matches were comparatively easy affairs for Chile In their first home match, they beat Ecuador 2-0 and made sure of a berth at Spain They took an early lead, through Rivas, but were unable to overcome their nervousness due, no doubt, to the pressure on them to win at all costs, exerted by the home crowd Ecuador refused to give up and began controlling the match but the Chilean defence, again with Figueroa standing out, withstood the storm and five minutes from the final whistle, Caszely sealed the issue beyond doubt

In the last match of the group, Chile beat Paraguay 3-0, though the match was of no consequence With the three-goal victory, they finished with a 6-0 goal record, which is indeed creditable by any standard They scored all three goals in the first 25 minutes of the match, through Caszely, Yanez and Neira

An inkling of Chile's strength was first made apparent last year when they held world champions Argentina to a 2-2 draw. Chile had played carefully in their away matches and coach Luis Santibanez had said "Even if I had told my boys to attack, they would not have done so in the away matches, because they still have that losing mentality.

Paraguay, absent from the World Cup finals since 1958 (usually eliminated by giants Brazil and Argentina) saw this as their chance since neither country was in their group Paraguay are the current South American champions, but they did not play adventurously enough against the weaker Ecuador side and went down in an unexpected away defeat Paraguay attacked from the start and had at least three good chances but were let down by poor marksmanship In the third minute of the second half, Ecuador scored what turned out to be the match-winner, through defender Klinger

In the return match, Ecuador held out for the first half against dominant Paraguay, but their defence fell to pieces after the interval and the home team (Paraguay) won comfortably with second half goals by Michelagnoli, Morel and Romero before Figueroa reduced the margin

Among the other groups, West Germany look like the favourites to head Europe's Group One, which comprises Austria, Bulgaria, Albania and Finland If they face any resistance, it will be from Austria who are close behind West Germany Europe's Group Two, consists of Belgium, Eire, France, Netherlands and Cyprus but it is extremely difficult to forecast who will ultimately emerge as the leaders Till the time of writing, Belgium have secured nine points from six matches, Eire seven from six, Netherlands six from five and France six from four It will be an interesting battle between these European countries

Wales leads Europe's Group Three, comprising Czechoslovakia, the USSR, Iceland and Turkey The leaders have nine points from five outings and are closely followed by the USSR with five from three and the Czechs with six from four matches Another interesting group is Europe's Group Four, which has England, Romania, Hungary, Switzerland and Norway England have seven points from six outings, Romania six from five and Hungary five from four They all have equal chances with Hungary possessing a slight edge, as they have lost the least points Italy and Yugoslavia are vying for the top place in Europe's Group Five, which also features Denmark, Greece and Luxembourg Both Italy and Yugoslavia have dropped two points in the five and four matches they have played respectively Europe's Group Six comprises Scotland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and Isreal Scotland lead with eight points from five outings and in Europe's Group Seven, it should be Poland who have won both their matches against East Germany and Malta

A CORRESPONDENT

MIDDLE-DISTANCE RECORDS

Coe and Ovett: odd couple of the track

RANJITKUMAR GHOSE

JOHN McENROE once said about Jimmy Connors "I'll follow that—to the ends of the earth. Every time he turns around he will see my shadow" Though the relationship between Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett, the two great middle-distance runners from Britain is no less cordial, neither of them will ever talk about the other in such a manner Still, sans the expletives deleted, the above comment nicely sums up the attitude of the two arch-rivals to one another.

Their rivalry in respect of the world mile record has already attained a historic level and reminds one of the running battle between Gunder Haegg and Arne Andersson, both of Sweden, in the early Forties. Incidentally, I cannot resist the temptation of quoting what I wrote in an April issue of a local journal: "Both Coe and Ovett are in excellent form now Therefore, it will not be too much to expect that their rivalry will clip some more seconds from the world mile record in the not-too-distant future." Coe did recapture from Ovett the mile record at Zurich on August 19, setting in motion "the greatest 10 days of middle distance running the world is unlikely to have the pleasure of witnessing again," as Ken Mays wrote in *The Daily Telegraph.*

It would be wrong to assume, however, that the intensity of the rivalry between Coe and Ovett is confined to the mile alone. Far from it Their rivalry embraces the entire range of middle-distance running which comprises the 800 metres, the 1,000 metres, the mile and the 1,500 metres. True, the competition between the two is more intense in connection with the mile than with any other event. At any rate, in the period between August 19 and August 28 the mile record changed hands between the two maestros on no less than three occasions.

It has been a case of Coe-Ovett-Coe-Ovett-Coe from July 17, 1979 to August 28, 1981 One notable fact is that no third runner has ever taken the mile record during this period. The Coe-Ovett seesaw has seen to it that the record has been bettered by 2.1 seconds in the process. It is an interesting coincidence that before the era of Coe and Ovett, none but the Swiss rivals, Haegg and Andersson, were able to recapture the mile record after losing it. Coe and Ovett became the third and the fourth runners respectively in the history of athletics to achieve the feat.

Coe (born September 24, 1956) who first started to run at the age of 12, gained international recognition for the first time in 1975 when he won third place in the European junior 1,500 metres. Two years later he went on to win the European indoor title over 800 metres, but his first real breakthrough came on July 5, 1979 at the Bislett Stadium, Oslo, where he shattered Alberto Juantorena's world record in the 800 metres, running the distance in 1m 42.4 secs. "I will never forget it as long as I live," Coe told Christopher Brasher afterwards.

That was but the beginning. Coe delighted himself and his greatest fan Peter Coe—his father-cum-coach—when, twelve days later he won the $ 2,000 Dubai Golden mile trophy, erasing John Walker's four-year-old record. And on the night of August 15 that year he capped is superb performance with his third world record in 41 days, this time breaking Filbert Bayi's five-year-old record in the 1,500m by one tenth of a second Coe literally ran into the history books, becoming the only athlete ever to hold the record for the mile, the 800m and the 1,500m at the same time

But, as Coe himself admitted, "you cannot live in history. Tomorrow is a different ball game...". Ovett came from Brighton to make sure that Coe did not. Which brings us to the second act of the drama.

Steve Ovett in action at the Crystal Palace



Ovett, senior to his Sheffield rival by just one year, had to his credit the European junior 800 metres record. But his greatest season (before any noteworthy confrontation with Coe) came in 1977 when he bagged both the European and World Cup 1,500 metres titles. The British records for this distance as well as the mile were in his pocket till Coe appeared on the scene, setting the stage for the most intriguing athletics duel in the second half of the twentieth century.

On July 1 last year Oslo witnessed the second act of the Coe-Ovett drama. The venue was the Bislett Stadium. Coe set a world record in the 1,000 metres, his fourth. Four world records at a time was a truly astounding feat, but Coe's achievement lasted only 35 minutes!

Ovett stripped Coe of his mile record to restore the *status quo ante.* It was a fine piece of simplification for kindergarten-stage children: three plus one minus one makes three! And this added a new dimension to the rivalry between the two Britons. From then on they were the sworn enemies of world athletics

Each girded his loins for the showdown at the Moscow Olympics three weeks later. The million-dollar question on the lips of millions of athletics lovers was: Who will win the direct confrontation between the two in the 800 m and the 1,500 m?

THE Moscow Olympics were certainly crippled by the US-led boycott, but keen competition in certain fields (and, of course, sincere USSR efforts to make it a success) acted as a healing balm to a great extent The Coe-Ovett double encounter was one such phenomenon. But in this third act of the drama there was an interesting reversal of roles which merits more than a passing mention

After he had broken the mile record in 1979 Coe hastened to explain that his real event was the 800 metres. On the other hand, the sporting public all over the world was inclined to believe that the 1,500 metres belonged to the Brighton middle-distance runner. This was so not only because of his earlier records, but Ovett was the 1,500 metres European champion as well in 1978.

On July 26, 1980 the Lenin Stadium remained aghast as Coe surrendered the 800m gold to Ovett. Peter Coe could not conceal his disappointment. He exploded. "First is first and second is nowhere. That silver medal will go in the bottom drawer, if we don't throw it away. He ran like a novice.... He ran like a chump and now he feels ashamed..... He was very silly. Stupid. Now he's the one who has to live with it. He's not feeling depressed. He's experiencing anger and disgust. To my dying day I won't be able to explain what happened."

Coe had to wait till August 1 when he turned the tables on Ovett in the 1,500 metres, the latter's favourite event. While Coe took the gold, Ovett finished behind Jurgen Straub (GDR) to take the bronze. No world or Olympic record was rewritten in either of event but the spectators had definitely been treated to their money's worth

When British promoters arranged a Golden Mile at the Crystal Palace on August 25 last year after the two returned home, it was a sellout, Coe, however, cried off eventually and the much-awaited direct confrontation did not take place. Ovett lost a possible chance of wresting the mile record. However, 48 hours later he ran the 1,500m at Koblenz (W Germany) as if with a vengeance and bettered Coe's record in 3m 31 36 secs Thus the Olympic reverse apart, Coe received two blows from Ovett in less than two months which cost him two world records

No further records were broken by this talented pair last year. In 1981, the goals of the two rivals are identical, namely, recouping the loss and consolidating the gained Coe improved both records left to him, the 800m (1·41 72 secs) at Florence on June 10 and the 1,000m at Oslo on July 12, perhaps thinking all the time about the mile and the 1,500m which had slipped from his grip

Knowing perfectly well that his records were threatened, Ovett has repeatedly tried to improve on his 1,500m timing but without success At Oslo (twice), Milan, Lausanne and Budapest, Ovett chased his own 1,500m record, obviously with an eye to keeping Coe at bay But till the time of sending this article to press, all he could do was to surrender his hard-earned mile record to Coe.

Before tracing how the mile record swiftly changed hands within the span of ten days, from August 19 to August 28, some stray incidents can be recapitulated to measure the depth of the rivalry

When on July 7 at Stockholm, Coe just failed to get his most-sought-after record—in the 1,500m—(3m 31.95 as against Ovett's record 3m 31.36) because his pace-maker James Robinson dropped out after two laps, he was furious He complained bitterly about the track officials' lapse in not supplying him lap times and said, "The most obvious track courtesy was not in operation at this meeting" Later a cooler Coe said that he was "very well and not as he was after being beaten in the Olympic 800 metres final" by Ovett

Again, when Coe regained the mile record on August 19, he said he was disappointed at not having shattered Ovett's 1,500 metre mark as well on his way.

When Coe broke his own 1,000 metres record at Oslo, he made his intentions clear, (That was on July 12). "It (the 1,000m) is not an Olympic distance, but it is the logical step between the 800 and 1,500 metres and I now know that I can concentrate on the 1,500 and the mile for the rest of the season because there is nothing I can add to the shorter distances If I can get the 1,000 right, then the rest should be okay"



Sebastian Coe during the Van Damme Memorial meet at Brussels



The fourth act of the Coe-Ovett drama began with the former's recapture of the mile record at Zurich where 27,000 cheering fans including his father and mother Angela saw him clocking 3m 48.53 secs Ovett grabbed the honours again (3m 48 40 secs) at Koblenz on August 26, though the threat of non-recognition on technical grounds clouded the record for some time.

Came the IAAF Golden Mile at the Ivo Van Damme Memorial meet in Brussels on August 28 Coe had come to Brussels with an eye not to the record but just to winning Ovett's success, however, spurred him on and he did it (3m 47 33 secs) in stunning style World record-wise, the score stood at 3-1 in favour of Coe

The relation between the two greats of middle distance is a shaky one Did Coe congratulate Ovett after the latter's 800m gold haul in Moscow?

"Yes, I did, but I don't remember him saying anything" And when Ovett was asked if there was any personal animosity between them he said "It would be wrong to call us friends, but there's no bad feeling between us"

That more than adequately sums up the relation between the two True, as Ovett pointed out, the bad feeling was a brainwave of the media "The media has to be black and white. Seb is white and I am black"

The two will not meet again before the Coca Cola meeting at Crystal Palace this month But even then the outcome is immaterial For Coes and Ovetts transcend themselves And science is learning from the athletic lives of men like Ovett and Coe, as they progress further into the unknown territory of human limits Each record attempt is another experiment and each experiment another harsh ordeal for the human exhibit under observation

The powerboat racing struggle

TIRTHANKAR GHOSH traces the beginnings of the war

Grey skies above. Drizzles

Enter the knights Like members of some galactic force, they stand on the pier, orange helmets in the crooks of their elbows Each raises his head, sizing up the other Not a word is spoken Just nods of deference or perhaps dismissal

Strapping on their helmets, each steps into the cockpit of a sleek, powerful charger, vaguely reminiscent of an aircraft without wings Emblazoned across their helmets and on the sides of their craft are names names of the high and the mighty in the world of business

In their thick, padded anoraks, the helmeted knights are ready to go out to battle in a war in which reputations will be made and lost, sponsors will be forgotten and gained It will be a war of speed and power, skill and nerves Above all, it will be a war which will keep alive the enmity not only among the competitors but among the manufacturers of the strange, wingless craft as well

Finally the signal Within seconds, speeds reach 125 mph The wingless craft surge forward in a burst of speed Their bows rise: they fly for 20 or 25 yards before landing on the water again This could be a war to death but the competitors, unmindful of that, race on

THIS is the world of inland powerboat racing The wingless monsters are the latest variation of speedboats—the Formula One series Power boat racing came to be recognised as a sport ever since boats with engines became an accepted fact. Races were held, perhaps for the first time around 1895 But the sport gained popularity in the 1950s when the lighter outboard motors were added to boats By 1956, offshore racing was officially a sport. It continues to be popular but is widely regarded as a sport for the affluent Indeed, owners of such boats spend nearly as much as Rs 10,000,000 a year on their running.

Not many can afford that sort of money when inland powerboat racing is so much more cheaper The lightweight boats used for competing in the Formula One series cost in the region of the equivalent of about Rs 4,00,000 a year to run And the running cost works out even lower when one considers the number of sponsors for each boat

With the increase in sponsors there has been pressure to raise the performance of the boats Higher speeds have always been the goal for the sponsors, the manufacturers and of course, the powerboat drivers. Not so very long ago, the fastest boats were the two-litre ones, i.e., those with an engine capacity of two litres. However, those who wanted faster boats naturally could not get them in the two-litre series

The loophole in the law was soon found According to the official classification, Formula One powerboats should be "2,000 cc and over " The two words, "and over" provided the excuse needed to beat the organisers at their own game Those very words have been the cause of a lot of jealousy among the drivers. In fact, they also caused a major upset in the powerboat racing world this year, instead of a single Formula One Powerboat World Championship, there are now two



The big-engined OZ boats line up on Lake Como

The story behind the fracture starts about four years ago The world championship was decided (till the formation of the second world championship this year) on the total points won in the six Grands Prix held in Europe and America through the year. The Paris Grand Prix, four years ago, was a significant event for powerboat competitors. Not only was it a gruelling six-hour race, but it was also a race which caused tremors in the racing world. It was the first time that a boat "over 2,000 cc" took part.

This was the spark to the highly volatile world of powerboat engine manufacturers. Rivalry among manufacturers had existed all along and now that an"over 2,000 cc" boat had taken part, the battle which had formerly existed only behind the scenes, now burst out into the open. Design engineers took out their drawing boards to set new standards.

Foremost in the war were the two world leaders in marine power engines—Mercury Marine Company and OMC (the Outboard Marine Company) This was the opportunity both had been waiting for and they used it to maximum advantage. Each channelled in more money and more research in order to manufacture the fastest and most powerful engine in the world.

Four years of work produced, what each hoped, was the best The companies hand-picked 12 of the world's leading powerboat drivers to test the engines for them Within a short while, the engines proved their merit—most of the prizes in the Grand Prix were snatched away by the 12 drivers in question Their boats were given special classification letters—OZ—by the sport's organisers to differentiate them from the less powerful two-litre engined boats used by many of the Formula One drivers. These were named the ON.

THE laws regarding engine specifications were hazy and to confuse matters further, Renato Molinari, the Italian powerboat racing champion, competed in the Italian Grand Prix in a boat with two engines! That caused a furore among the drivers as Molinari had stretched the "over 2,000 cc" point very far indeed In 1980, the drivers of the less powerful boats put their foot down and took steps against the OZ boats No less than 28 of them ganged up and signed a petition, asking the organisers to ban the OZ boats from the World Championships. And while the OZ and the ON camps fought it out, some sponsors quietly withdrew their support

Perhaps the first to react officially, and in the right direction, was the Cotswold Motor Boat Racing Club, the organisers of the Bristol Grand Prix The club's commodore, Charlie Sheppard, a 71-year-old retired civil engineer with a passion for powerboats, decided to ban the OZ machines from taking part in forthcoming Grands Prix. He said that Formula One racing

Responding to the Cotswold Motorboat Racing Club's directive, four of the six world championship Grands Prix organisers also decided to ban the "over 2,000 cc" engines from the Grands Prix races. The other two organisers did not follow suit. Result: two distinct camps. Today, there are a series of six Formula One races organised by each camp.

Sponsors like the cigarette manufacturers, John Player Special, and a few others have come out in full support of the OZ machines and the "unlimited" Formula One races. But there are not many advocates of OZ only about 10 boats can take part, all run on OMC engines. The other camp is supported by FONDA (a recently formed organisation—the Formula One Drivers' Association) and aided financially by Mercury

THIS camp is firm in its belief that their Grand Prix would be more interesting and competitive if 25 boats take part, unlike OZ's 10. OZ, however, have captured the world's top drivers Bob Spalding (the present world champion), Tom Percival, Renato Molinari (the Italian champion), Francois Salabert (the French champ) and Ceesvander Velden (the Dutch champion).

Perhaps because the top ten are not allowed to take part the two-litre engine limit has caused a lot of unhappiness. Champion racer Bob Spalding believes that while there was a need for a limit it was unfair of the ON camp to limit them with only a few months' notice "especially when OMC do not have a commercial engine capable of competing" in the two-litre class But then OZ racing was "more exciting and more spectacular". Spalding, vowed never to stoop to accept the ON camp's rules.

But the aftermath of the limitation war has already been felt in both the camps At Bristol, 24 boats took part but in the Brussels Grand Prix the number decreased to ten; while twelve OZ boats competed in West Germany, only eight were available for the Italian Grand Prix at Lake Como.

Even the manufacturers who previously remained nonchalant with regard to the whole issue are now sitting up. Soon, they feel, an understanding will be reached between the two camps, because Japanese engine manufacturers like Suzuki and Yamaha who are already taking part in the small-engine category will be entering the larger size engine classes OMC will then have to produce two-litre engines commercially to maintain superiority "It is like driving a car at 300mph across a rutted field." That's what Alan Jones, the world motor racing champion driver said after trying out a powerboat Rutted field or not, it is a dangerous sport There have been only about ten Formula One accidents in nearly as many years Most of the accidents happen because of flips—the backward somersault after a boat takes off And flips do occur regularly for to be really fast, a powerboat driver has to literally make his craft fly over the water

Powerboat drivers remember the accidents very vividly and often talk about them In 1974 the former Italian champ, Censari Scotti's boat flew out of control and he was left stuck to a bridge parapet. More recently, the two-man crew of a rescue boat were torn to pieces by the propeller of a boat which flew over them. In 1980 Austrian Erwin Zimmerman was thrown out of a boat

In spite of the accidents and the division of the powerboat sporting community into two distinct camps, Formula One racing continues to thrill sport addicts For the addict cannot be like the Shah of Persia who did not like watching a horse race simply because he was aware that one horse was faster than the rest



Jack Leek (centre) of John Player, with colleagues in the team van

The story on the track

THE engine controversy has brought about two world powerboat racing championships in 1981. More or less the same thing happened on the Grand Prix Motor racing tracks this year.

There are rules for engines on Formula One racing cars—normal engines have to be of 3,000 cc while supercharged ones are of 1,500 cc. With these limitations, designers have thought of ways to extract the highest speeds—sometimes reaching 200 mph on straight tracks and 150 mph on curves. Aerodynamic designs have helped out.

The principle of "ground effect" was first used by racer Colin Chapman. His Lotus garage engineers made a smooth undercarriage for the racing car, similar to the wing of a plane. This undercarriage gave the racer what is now known as a "down force". This "force" pulled the racer to the ground, a factor of immense help when taking curves at high speeds.

Equipped with the smooth undercarriage cars could take curves at speeds 30 mph higher, than those without it. Engineers then came out with a marvel, adding deep skirts to the sides of the racer. What happened was that there was very little space between the undercarriage and the ground, causing a kind of vacuum, which meant that racers at high speeds had little chance of turning over.

At the start of the season this year, the Paris-based Federation International du Sport Automobile decided to ban skirts on racers and ordered that there should be a clearance of 6 cm between the bodywork and the ground. This was resented by the English Formula One Constructors Association. So strong was the resentment that Bernie Ecclestone was on the verge of breaking up the championships into two groups.

Later, good sense prevailed and the French and the British signed an agreement, suitably called, a "Concorde Agreement." There would be no skirts but there would be new variable suspension systems. Engineers gave full play to their imaginative talent and came up trumps: push a button or a lever and the whole car goes down. Thereby, racers are measured in the pits by the organisers to check if they conform to the 6 cm clearance rule, but as soon as they move on to the track they can forget the rules as their racers hug the ground.

Ghous Mohammed's fight against cancer

In 1939, he became the first Indian to reach the quarter-final stage of Wimbledon. Four decades later, he is unable to speak because of tongue cancer. ASHOK KAMATH went to Hyderabad to conduct a most unusual interview, in which Ghous Mohammed wrote down the answers to the questions because of his inability to speak

FOR the post-Independence generation of tennis enthusiasts of this country, the name of Ghous Mohammed will hardly ring a familiar note Ask any present generation follower of the game "Who was the first Indian to make it to the quarter-finals of a Wimbledon championship?" and, nine to one, the answer will be "Ramanathan Krishnan" or, worse still, "Vijay Amritraj".

Not without reason though the last time Ghous Mohammed played for the country was in 1947, as captain of the Indian Davis Cup squad Just to set the record straight for the uninitiated, the first Indian to enter the last eight of a Wimbledon championship was indeed Ghous Mohammed, who accomplished this feat way back in 1939

Today, this man is suffering from cancer of the tongue We went to meet Ghous Mohammed at his Humayun Nagar residence in Hyderabad on Sunday, August 30 Mrs Siddiqua, the eldest daughter-in-law of the ailing tennis star, informed us that "Pappa" had developed fresh complications the previous night and had been rushed to hospital

"His health took a turn for the worse three days ago and last night he did not have a wink of sleep despite the sedative that was administered to him He began spitting blood—it was a dreadful sight—and was in great pain. I have never seen anyone suffer so much as Pappa has over the past few days But he is a brave man Even in acute suffering, he puts up a brave front," she said

The scene shifts to the Mehdi Nawaz Jung Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad We walk into Ward Number One half expecting to find a decrepit old former national tennis champion, bedridden and melancholic, ready to dole out sob stories by the dozen on the slightest provocation

Instead, the person we meet is someone who strikes us almost immediately as one who stubbornly refuses to be cowed down by the dreadful disease he is suffering from In the first instance, Ghous Mohammed's cancer-



A PRABHAKAR RAO

Ghous Mohammed and family friends

stricken tongue prevents him from speaking normally So how was he going to answer our questions?

No bother He would write down his replies We were a little hesitant, but seeing this, he shooes away with a firm hand the suggestion from his wife and eldest son not to strain himself He adjusts the pillows he uses to prop himself up on the bed railing and looks at us as though to say: "Go ahead, what are you waiting for?"

Our photographer meanwhile is readying himself to take a few photographs and the patient indicates to wait Reaching for his pen and pad, he scribbles: "Take one of me with my wife and son" The clicking done, we settle down for what one personally considers one's most unique interview—in terms of the manner in which it was carried out

GHOUS MOHAMMED KHAN was born on November 2, 1915 into a family of *Jagirdars* owing allegiance to the Lucknow Nawabi Given the economic power of a *Jagirdars* in semi-feudal India, it would be superfluous on our part to say that Khan Bahadur Momammed Yusuf Khan—Ghous Mohammed's late father—was a man of high means

The familiar house in Malihabad—some 25 kilometres from Lucknow—had an excellent tennis court within its premises The *Jagirdar* would invariably be found in a pair of tennis shoes when he was not donning hunting boots and out in the wild in search of game

Not many youngsters can boast of having a tennis court in a backyard and in Ghous Mohammed's case it was as though he was, to distort a cliche, "born with a tennis racket in his hand" But when he went to school in Aligarh it was a far more plebian sport—football—which caught his fancy

"I was very good at football in school as well as tennis But my teacher scratched out my name from the foot-

ball team and forced me to concentrate on tennis as it was felt this was the game I was best suited for " Hindsight tells us that the switch of loyalties from football to tennis was a very profitable one Three years later he was crowned the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) tennis champion

The man who dominated the Indian tennis scene for the most part of the Thirties and Forties played his first Wimbledon championship in 1938 The next year he made history by becoming the first Indian (and the first Asian too, his son informs us) to reach the quarter finals

It was in this round that he met his match in Bobby Riggs Riggs went on to win the crown that year but the American did spend a few anxious moments in the quarter-final against the Indian star It was a good year for Ghous Mohammed, having narrowly lost the Queen's Club title just before Wimbledon Subsequently, the intervening years of World War Two prevented him, like countless other sportsmen, from trying his fortunes in international competitions when his career was peaking



Ghous Mohammed with his wife and son Mohammed Ghous Khan

WE decided to ask Ghous Mohammed to go on a nostalgic binge What was it like playing tennis in those days? How was it different from the standards obtaining today?

With a certain amount of difficulty, the onetime star wrote "In my days, tennis was fun, pure and simple fun Win or lose, we would be happy to produce our best game each time we went out to do battle Now it has become a full-time profession and, of course, there is a lot of money in the game if you turn professional The only thing players are bothered about now is winning and making money Because of the fierce competition, you have unsportsmanlike behaviour on court, and this is something that was not so common in our days. My game was based largely on my serve—I had a powerful service—and my lethal backhand"

After his playing days he took up a job with the Osmania University in Hyderabad as chief sports organiser Did he feel that his services were not properly utilised by the All-India Lawn Tennis Association? "I'm sorry, I think I shall not answer that question", he writes

But Ghous Mohammed did explain that Lawrence, the well-known tennis coach from England had a good word about his coaching prowess "I did not know Lawrence", he wrote, "but he had seen me play at Wimbledon In summer I used to play at the public gardens and he saw me coach youngsters there. He went back to England and wrote an article in a sports magazine saying that Ghous Mohammed was the best coach in India and the wards under me were in good hands or something to that effect The late Jimmy Mehta also once wrote an article wherein he recalled that even the great Bill Tilden could not help him sort out the problem with his (Jimmy's) backhand while Ghous Mohammed managed to do it,"

Even though he did not say it in as many words, it was obvious that he was hurt that his services were never used to the best extent at the national level He spent his energies helping promote sports—not just tennis—at the Osmania University, retiring from that institution in August 1974

Hameeduddin Mehmood, a friend of Ghous Mohammed "for the past fifty years" described him as a perfect gentleman, generous to a fault and a great sportsman "in the truest sense of the term". Mehmood, who was at the ailing man's bedside during the course of the interview, opined that "Even though my good friend might not agree with me, I think the best match he played was the exhibition tie against McNeil of the United States here in Hyderabad. It was a glorious five-setter and after trailing, he came back in each of the five sets, only to lose 5-7 in the decider I can never forget this match which I consider his best Mind you, I have seen a good deal of his playing career."

We asked Ghous Mohammed to nominate his most memorable match in terms of personal satisfaction "I have no hesitation," he wrote, in nominating my encounter against Steadman, who was then the reigning New Zealand champion, at the South Gymkhana Club in 1935.

"I beat him but what gave me more satisfaction was the fact that my father watched me beat him and he was very proud of me that day This was among my earliest big victories".

If there is one thing about the man that is bound to strike you after communicating with him for a while, it is the fierce pride which he retains to this day At one point, he went into a violent spasm of coughing and even as we were trying to give him the heavy brass spitoon, he grunted his displeasure and insisted on lifting it himself as though to say, "No, I am strong enough to do it myself".

At another point we asked him about the extent of financial help that has come in from various quarters He scribbled "I was once a rich man I do not think you should mention how much came in" We tried asking again, only to determine what the reaction of the tennis world in this country was in terms of helping the ailing former national champion financially But he was insistent that we leave that angle out

From relatives we found out that some Rs 35,000 had come in from various quarters and as his daughter-in-law pointed out to us, "At the moment, it is not so much the financial contributions that matter as help in the form of the arrangements that could be made to get Pappa admitted to say the Tata Hospital in Bombay or some such institute for advanced treatment "

The tale of Ghous Mohammed's affliction started with a small boil-like eruption on the tongue which was noticed to be malignant some time in April this year The eruption was a tiny one, something of the size of a sand particle, but suddenly it began to grow in size

On May 4 he was operated upon in the King George Hospital, Lucknow and the offending tumour was removed That did not bring much relief and it was then that the elder of his two sons, Mohammed Ghous Khan, asked him to come to Hyderabad for treatment Even though doctors attending on him in the Mehdi Nawaz Jung Cancer Hospital did not conclusively say so, it is reasonable to believe that Ghous Mohammed's constant pipe-smoking caused his present ailment He has been undergoing what doctors refer to as "chemotherapy" How well he will respond at this stage is any one's guess

But, as his friend Mehmood told us, "The man's will to live is tremendous"

TTFI CONTROVERSY

Why was Khodaiji annoyed?

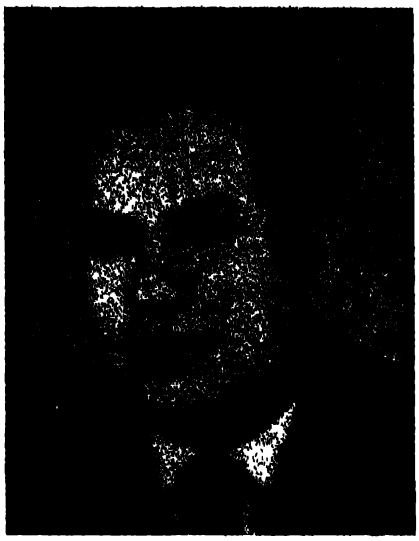
THE hue and cry over the exclusion of national champion Chandrasekhar from the squad bound for DPR Korea has still not settled down. Indeed, the sequel to Chandra's omission the resignation of national selector and former champion Farookh Khodaiji, caused quite a considerable flutter in table tennis circles in the country

In the words of Mr M C. Chowhan, the secretary of the TTFI, "Mr Khodaiji was of the opinion that a fresh, new-look team should be selected as he claimed there was nothing of importance at stake at Pyong Yang The other selectors did not agree with his viewpoint since the topnotchers in world table tennis would be participating at Pyong Yang. In fact, it was the majority view that selection should be carried out on the basis of the performance of players in the trials during the coaching camps This was decided on to encourage a certain amount of seriousness on the part of the players, who tend to take such camps as a joke.

"I attended the controversial meeting of the TTFI on August 16 in the capacity of honorary secretary and while I was appraising the committee members of the Government stand, Mr Khodaiji shouted out words to the effect that I had no business to sit there and interfere in the process of selection. In fact, it was not my intention to interfere with selection at all, but as the secretary of the Table Tennis Federation of India, no one can question my right to sit in on any meetings of the federation, least of all Mr Khodaiji When I told him this, he walked out angrily"

It is learnt in table tennis circles that Khodaiji was dissatisfied with the way things were being handled in the present set up. Eyebrows were raised at the fact that he had not attended a single meeting of the selection panel since the day he was included on the panel This, in fact, added up to a period of eight months In fact, he had not even bothered to explain in writing the reasons for his continued absence from these meetings despite the fact that he was a nominated member of the said panel.

However, it appeared that he had no inclination to correspond with either the secretary or the chairman of the selection committee concerning matters of selection with regard to the coaching camps The reason for this seemed to be Khodaiji's dissatisfaction with the working of the selection panel.



M C Chowhan

Sources close to the TTFI claim that the former champion harboured ambitions of becoming a member of the executive committee or one of the other committees of the federation It is true that he had a long innings during the Ranga era Was he then annoyed when the present TTFI bosses nominated Dilip Sampat of Maharashtra to the executive panel? This, it might as well be pointed out, was done on the basis of the fact that Sampat was a former international and also represents the players' community What made matters worse was the TTFI's nomination of Maharashtra's Karlekar as chairman of the technical committee The reason for this was his vast experience in technical matters. Adding fuel to fire was the fact that a third Maharashtrian, Mr Ruby Crawford, secretary of the Maharashtra Table Tennis Association, was included in the executive panel as a West Zone representative. This meant that Khodaiji could no longer find a place since his home State had obtained more than its quota of representatives on the panel.



View of the 33rd Worlds at Calcutta's Netaji Indoor Stadium

The TTFI, for its part, could not fail to acknowledge the claims of Madhya Pradesh and Mr Suresh Gawade was nominated chairman of the selection committee. The deciding factor in Mr Gawade's nomination was his vast experience He is one of the few officials who has witnessed all major table tennis tournaments in India over the last decade or so.

As Mr Chowhan added, "I personally feel that Mr Khodaiji should have given a note of dissent before going straight to the Press with his grievances It would have been much better if Mr Khodaiji had tried to convince the other members of the selection panel as to the merits of his suggestions On the other hand, failing this, he could have gracefully accepted the views of others present at the meeting instead of walking out in the manner he did"

Even selection committee chairman Suresh Gawade thought it unbecoming. "I have always had the highest regard for Mr Khodaiji, but his sudden outburst and his strange behaviour that day shocked me deeply I feel that he should have conveyed his objections to me instead of resorting to the course of action he chose

"He was of the opinion that budding players be given a chance in the tournament, but he should have exercised more care in the way he dealt with the subject I welcomed his suggestion and had agreed to it in principle provided the same terms were laid down to the women's team However, he disagreed with this and I told him that we could not follow one particular guideline only when it suited us. None of the other members agreed with his theory.

"In order to avoid any further conflict and to prevent any useless, time-consuming debates I asked all the selectors to nominate their teams on paper, but Mr Khodaiji did not agree with this suggestion and walked out of the meeting I was surprised at this, especially as he is a man who commands a great deal of respect in several quarters of the game I expected co-operation from him but unfortunately, this was not forthcoming," concluded Mr Gawade.

In a further communication with Mr Chowhan, the TTFI secretary strongly denied Press reports to the effect that the visas of players like Manmeet Singh and Manjit Dua had already been processed even before the announcement of the team. As he stressed, "This was done only after the selection of the team Let me stress that the days when teams were announced without the knowledge of the selection committee are now over. Interestingly enough, Mr Khodaiji was on the panel during that time."

SUJEET MOHANTY, Indore

My most memorable moments

ROMEN GHOSH

Romen Ghosh was one of the most talented players to have represented India in international badminton. He was one of the doubles specialists. Romen, a graduate in Economics, is a member of the famous Dipu Ghosh family. His brother Dipu Ghosh was also a formidable name in the international circuit.

Born in 1942 at Bengal, of a middle class sport loving family, he first donned Indian colours in 1961 when he went to Pakistan to play "Test" matches.

From 1963 to 1977 he was more or less, a regular member of the Indian team. During this period he represented India in four Thomas Cup tournaments, four Asian Badminton Championships, five All England Badminton tournaments, and two Aslads. His last appearance for India was in the Asian badminton Championship at Hyderabad. He was given the Arjuna Award in 1974. Today he is employed as the Stores Officer in Rourkela Steel Plant.



THE most memorable moment in my life came when I heard the news of my inclusion in the Indian team in 1963 to play the Thomas Cup matches against New Zealand. The selectors had preferred me to Suresh Goel, who was the top player in the country at the time. They wanted to strengthen the doubles team, as the doubles matches are equally important in the Thomas Cup.

Although I had already donned an Indian blazer in 1961, that was only for the second string team of the country. Another moment, which I cannot forget came in 1969 at the Calcutta Nationals. I was very confident that I could take Suresh Goel in the semi-final, because in our earlier encounters I had beaten him nine time. But here I lost the match in three sets, in the decider the score was 18-17.

I started playing badminton at an early age due to my family's interest in the game. My father, the late Shahil Krishan Ghosh, himself a good player, encouraged us to take to the game seriously even in preference to studies, which few parents dare to do. He was our coach, guide, and mentor. My mother was also a keen follower of the game. Today, I owe whatever I have achieved to my parents. Till 1958, barring a few local tournaments, I had never played in a big [illegible] by Amar [illegible] family [illegible] injury to the [illegible]. And to [illegible] victory I won [illegible] Roland [illegible] Ramjida was [illegible] tourna- [illegible] with my [illegible] with a [illegible] fulfilled. [illegible] Bengal [illegible] Championship. Though in the nationals I lost in Dhanbad Khanna in the semi-finals.

Later, I represented Bengal for two years in the nationals as a member of the senior team. In 1961 I joined the Railways and started playing for them in the Nationals. I represented the Indian Railways from 1961 to 1969. In 1970, I joined my present employer R. S. P. Since then I have been playing for Orissa State in the Nationals. Till now I have played in 23 nationals, which is perhaps a record. In the international circuit, I represented India in the Thomas Cup four times in 1963, 1966, 1969 and 1972. In 1973 I missed it due to domestic reasons. Had I played, it would have been a record for an Indian player. Apart from the Thomas Cup tournaments, I played in four Asian Badminton [illegible] as the top player in the country. Still, I was not given much scope to play singles matches for India. Even, my brother Dipu Ghosh, when he was skipper, kept me only for the doubles matches, although, I think, I was not inferior to the other players who were playing in the singles matches.

Today, after having played 23 nationals I sometimes feel disillusioned and do not find myself closely connected with the game. My experience in the game seems to be of no use. I would like to serve the game by helping some up-coming players.

As told to SATISH SHARMA

News round-up

Arjuna for Manjit?

JULLUNDUR: Former national champion Manjit Dua, is to be the recipient of the next Arjuna Award According to the Punjab table tennis circles, the decision to this effect was taken by the Table Tennis Federation of India in the last executive meeting held at Delhi recently The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs had sought the recommendation of a player for this award from the TTFI. The federation in reply recommended the name of this left-hander international from Delhi

Manjit has the honour of being allowed to play for Deutsher Tisch Tennis Bund, a club in Frankfurt, West Germany It is learnt that Manjit Dua had sought the permission of the TTFI to join the club, and the federation president Mr S P Bagla has agreed to it However, it seems certain that Dua will continue donning Indian colours for some time more

Manjit Dua



According to a visitor to the Patiala TT coaching camp prior to the Pyong Yang tournament, the probables were made to play each other on a league basis recently. Out of the 18 matches, Dua won 17 matches and remained at the top It may be recalled that Manjit Dua is the first Sikh national champion Belonging to a family of sports-lovers and table tennis players Dua rose to prominence in 1971 at Jullundur where he won the northern India table tennis title beating Bombay's Suhas Kulkarni. Later, he became the national champion outplaying Kasim Ali of Andhra Pradesh With another national champion Niraj Bajaj, he formed the most awesome pair which touched the peak of excellence at Hongkong. Dua is 30 and still a bachelor

H S VIRDI

Union club wins bridge laurels

PATNA: Despite the presence of some of the top Calcutta teams, the Patna District Open Bridge Championship, held here on August 22 and 23, saw the Union Club squad of Ranchi carry away the laurels. In a thrilling finish, the winners rallied magnificently from behind to overtake the team of the Income Tax Commissioner, Bihar, S.P Singh. After the completion of 16 out of the 32 deals, the Ranchi team was down by four international match-points, but they finally turned the tables on their adversaries, winning 74-59.

With the participation of teams like the Bhowanipore Card Club, the current RUIA Gold Cup winners, P.C. Goenka's team, Calcutta Furniture, Nalinesh Mohitosh Memorial Club, also of Calcutta, the Maheshwaris' team from Allahabad and two teams from Nepal, besides the leading Bihar teams, the district championship looked like a mini-national tournament.

The Bhowanipore Card Club team included Sukharanjan Ghosh, Kamal Mukherjee, G. Singha, S. Ganguli, Shantanu Ghosh and Debashish Roy, while the famous P.C. Goenka's team comprised L.N. Vijay and Nant Dutta In the Calcutta Furniture R.C. squad were M. Chatterjee, S. Kantha, S. Siddhanta, A. Ghosh, S. Banerjee and Kamal Roy, but these players just could not click.

The four teams which qualified for the semi-finals from a field of 33 entries were Union Club, Ranchi; Friends' Club, Jamalpur; and N.P. Singha's and S.P. Singh's teams both from Patna. In the clash for spots in the ultimate round, S.P. Singh's team beat Friends' Club 126-40 and Union Club got the better of N.P. Singha's team by a 95-49 margin.

The results have come as a shot in the arm for the teams from Bihar, who can now hope to challenge leading Indian bridge players much more confidently.

The Master Pair's title was claimed by L.N. Vijay and Nanti Sen who bagged 555 points as against 550½ points scored by the Dutta brothers, Dilip and Nirmal. Patna's Gautam Roy and P.C. Bhattacharjee finished a very close third, only half point behind the Dutta brothers of Calcutta.

PREM KUMAR

Jullundur firm to supply hockey balls

JULLUNDUR: Hockey balls made in the city will be used in the forthcoming World Cup men's hockey tournament, to be held at Bombay in December this year. This was made clear in a letter from K.L. Passi, organising secretary of the tournament, received recently at the Punjab Hockey Association headquarters. The company to earn the distinction is the same one—Beat All Sports—which supplied the hockey balls for the third World Cup at Kuala Lumpur where India defeated Pakistan by a solitary goal.

It may be recalled that a number of sports goods manufacturers from both Jullundur and Meerut had floated offers to the Indian Hockey Federation. But, it seems, IHF president Indermohan Mahajan opted for this company because it has been kitting the Indian Hockey team for a number of years.

H S.VIRDI

Andrei Vedernikov of USSR crosses the finish line to win the men's amateur road race at the World Cycling Championship in Prague





Mihail Saladze of USSR overthrowing Hungarian Tamas Caspar in the 100kg class to win the gold medal at the World Wrestling championships held at Oslo recently Caspar got the silver

Exciting WCT Circuit ahead

AJMER: Following the split between World Championship Tennis and the Volvo Grand Prix, the commencement of the rival WCT tour was a mere formality. Indeed, if the schedule for 1982, just published, is any indication, WCT may well reduce the Volvo Grand Prix to a circuit for second-raters. WCT is pumping $7.43 million into pro tennis next year; they plan 17 events in each of which the winner will receive $100,000 In contrast, the winner of a large Volvo tournament will receive a mere $35,000

The circuit commences with the "Spring Tour", from January to May The top eight players from eight WCT events and four 1981 events—the Tournament of Champions, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open—will qualify for the annual WCT Finals at Dallas, the winner receiving $150,000 and large bonuses Previous winners include Rosewall, Ashe, Borg, Connors and McEnroe.

Next follows the "Summer Tour", from July to October. The top eight players from four WCT events, and the 1982 French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open, will qualify for the WCT Fall Finals, to be played in Rome. The winner will collect $125,000.

The "Winter Tour" will run from October, 1982 to February, 1983. It will consist of seven events, leading to the Winter Finals, to be held in Japan. In addition there will be the $500,000 WCT Tournament of Champions, with bonuses totalling some $467,000 offered by the Hyatt Hotel chain and Braniff Airways

The 1982 WCT Circuit promises to be more exciting than ever before. Ken "Mr Evergreen" Rosewall once remarked, "WCT established what a pro circuit should be . nearly everything about pro tennis had its start in the WCT series" There have been variations over the years, but the concept still stands ..a quest for the best.

RAHUL JACOB

Search for rural talent

INDORE: The Madhya Pradesh Table Tennis Association, four times winner of the President's Award for being the best organised State association in India, has of late experimented with the idea of delving deep into the tribal and adivasi areas of MP with positive results. L.G Verma, secretary of the MPTTA said, "We want to erase the notion that table tennis being a game of psychological warfare cannot draw good players from the tribal and adivasi pockets, since the players of these regions are not sufficiently advanced intellectually Our present formula of holding the State championships in these backward sectors has yielded rich dividends Because of the positive response that we have got thus far we have decided to hold the 1982 State championships in the remote adivasi district of Chindwara For this our State association is making every effort to get tables and other equipment to these areas Last year, when the State championships were held at Raigarh, a remote tribal area in the Bastar district, we were elated to find a tribal lass in Kumari Kaushilaya becoming the runner-up in the sub-junior girls' event, while R Ramalu from Bastar lost in the pre-quarter-final in the boys' event Is not this a positive sign of budding talents in the tribal and adivasi districts?" asked L G Verma

It can be pointed out in this context that except for veteran Narendra Kaushik, all the State champions are products of the Indore table tennis coaching camps organised by the Indore District Table Tennis Association The Indore TT coaching school has about 50 trainees who are coached by experienced senior players

SUJEET MOHANTY

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

After World War I it took England 14 Tests to score a win over Australia. And after World War II it took 15. When Test cricket was resumed after the 1914-18 War Australia, led by Warwick Armstrong, recorded eight successive victories against England – five straight in the 1920-21 series in Australia, then three in a row in the 1921 series in England before drawing the last two matches. England at last gained a victory—their first over Australia since 1912—in the fourth Test of the 1924-25 series—a series won by Australia 4-1. Arthur Gilligan won the toss in the fourth Test, in Melbourne, and England, batting first, amassed 548 runs. Australia replied with 269 and 250, losing by an innings and 29 runs. Main contributor to England's big score was a player who batted through a day for the third time in the series for his fourth century.

QUESTION 1 Who was this bowler who in the first innings took 5/49 off 18 overs, his victims including Arthur Morris, Lindsay Hassett, Neil Harvey and Keith Miller, whom he caught and bowled each innings?

Although the 1950-51 series was won 4-1 by Australia, an Englishman was the outstanding batsman – in 10 innings scoring 533 runs, more than 150 better than any other batsman on either side, at an average of 88, more than twice the average of any other batsman, Australian or English.

QUESTION 2 Who was this batsman who made 143 in this Test, after scores of 59 and 115 in the first, 176 and 127 in the second and 59 in the third?

Melbourne was again the scene when England broke their second post-War drought. The last Test before World War II had produced England's biggest victory over Australia – an innings and 579 runs, at The Oval in 1938— and the first Test after the War, at Brisbane in 1946, produced Australia's biggest victory over England— an innings and 332 runs. Australia went on to take the 1946-47 series 3-0, with two matches drawn, and the 1948 series, 4-0, with one draw. In the 1950-51 series Australia were leading 4-0 when England at last broke through—to win by eight wickets, with more than a day to spare, in Brisbane. England's heroes were Reg Simpson, who made 156 not out (to equal Len Hutton's 156 not out in the fourth Test, second highest score of the series to Arthur Morris' 206 in the fourth Test), Alec Bedser who took five wickets in each Australian innings to finish with match figures of 10/105 off 42.3 overs.

QUESTION 3 Who was this batsman?

Reverting to England's barren period after World War I— After the 1924-25 series, the first four Tests of the 1926 series in England were drawn. It was necessary to play the fifth Test, at The Oval, to a finish to decide the rubber. England won by 289 runs, only their second victory in 20 post-War Tests against Australia, and recaptured the Ashes they had lost five years earlier. Spectacular features of the match included Arthur Mailey getting rid of six of the first seven batsmen in England's first innings. He bowled Hobbs, Sutcliffe and Woolley, an opening stand of 172 in England's second innings by Hobbs and Sutcliffe – most of it on a malevolent wicket after heavy overnight rain and morning sun, Jack Hobbs' magnificent century – his first and only hundred against Australia on his homeground. At lunch on the third day he was on 97. The prospect of his hundred swelled The Oval crowd, distinguished arrivals during lunchtime including the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII). During the morning Hobbs and Sutcliffe had added 112 on what Hobbs' biographer, Ronald Mason, described as "this terrible wicket" against "this keen and menacing attack" – it included Jack Gregory, Arthur Mailey and Clarrie Grimmett. Immediately after lunch came the culmination of Hobbs' wonderful hundred. An over later he was out to Gregory for exactly 100. Sutcliffe's splendid innings of 161. After the departure of Hobbs the England innings was built around Sutcliffe in what noted cricket writer Denzil Batchelor described as "one of the major glories of England's cricketing history between the Wars." As Woolley, Hendren and Chapman lost their wickets, Sutcliffe continued to demonstrate his fine technique and temperament until bowled by Mailey's googly, in the last over of the day. Australia, left with the task of geting 415 to win, were all out for 125—and the Ashes were back with England. In this memorable match England's selectors sprang several surprises, a new captain, 25-year-old Percy Chapman replacing A.W. Carr, a new fast bowler-21-year-old Harold Larwood, whose six wickets were all top batsmen—Bill Woodfull, Warren Bardsley, Tom Andrews (twice), Herbert Collins and Charlie Macartney, a veteran recalled in his 49th year—a player who had last represented England in 1921 and had made his debut in Test cricket in 1899, before three members of the 1926 team, Chapman, G.T.S. Stevens and Larwood, had been born. But he was taking wickets consistently and was leading the national bowling averages.

QUESTION 4 Who was this veteran who played his part in England's memorable win by making 28 and 14 and taking six wickets—2/35 and 4/44—his victims being Woodfull, Bardsley, Ponsford, Collins and Arthur Richardson (twice)?

The Ashes lost by England to Woodfull's 1930 side were regained in the controversial bodyline series of 1932-33 in Australia by the team led by Douglas Jardine.

QUESTION 5 Who was the first England skipper after Jardine to recapture the Ashes in Australia?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 150, scored by Derek Randall in the first innings of the fourth Test, 1978-79 England-Australia series, in Sydney.

2 For Australia Graham Yallop, 102 in the first Test and 121 in the sixth, Kim Hughes, 129 in the first, and Graeme Wood 100 in the third. For England Randall, 150 in the fourth, David Gower, 102 in the second.

3 Bob Barber.

4 Neil Hawke. Four of his seven dismissals were completed by Grout—Cowdrey, Smith and Jim Parks in addition to Brown. He had Barrington caught by Graham McKenzie and bowled I.J. Jones (16). Hawke finished the 1965-66 series at the top of the Australian bowling, sharing most wickets, 16, with McKenzie but with a better average—26.18 to 29.18.

5 Doug Walters.

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

1 Who hit the first century recorded in India?
2 Who captained the first tour of England by an Indian cricket side?
3 Which was Alec Bedser's debut Test?
4 Which was India's first official home (cricket) Test?
5 Who is the first women's Wimbledon champion in the era of open lawn tennis to take the title without dropping a set?
6 When were, for the first time, sex tests held for women in an Olympic Games?
7 When for the first time did a woman light the Olympic flame?
8 Who won the USSR's first Olympic swimming gold?
9 Who was the last eastern cut-off style high jumper to win an Olympic gold medal?
10 When did England last beat Australia in a cricket Test at Lord's?

ANSWERS

1 One 'Spens' in a match between Poona and Bombay in Poona, 1875
2 Dr D H Patel who led the Parsee cricketers trip to England in 1886
3 First Test against England at Lord's, 1946 (June 22 24 25)
4 The first Test against England 1933-34 (Played at Bombay from December 15 to 18 1933)
5 Chris Lloyd who achieved the feat this year
6 The 1968 Olympics (Mexico City)
7 Same as above Enriqueta Basilio ignited the flame
8 Galina Porsumenschikova who won the 200 m breast-stroke in the 1964 Games
9 John Winter (Australia) who did it in 1948
10 1934

Question box

Answers by Indra Vidya

Anupam Johri, Bareilly (U P)
Q After a team gets out the other team gets 10 minutes to get ready but if a team is out just 10 minutes before the draw of stumps what will happen?
A There will be no play on that day

Gautam Mullick, Calcutta
Q. How many Test wickets has Gavaskar taken?
A Just one conceding 149 runs

Abhijit Pal, Raiganj
Q When did the Kiwis score their lowest total of 26? Who was the highest wicket-taker? Who scored the highest runs in the Test? What was the second innings score?
A In the second Test against England at Auckland in 1954-55, R Appleyard took 4 wickets for 7 runs Opener Bert Sutcliffe was the top scorer in the New Zealand innings, who in the first innings had totalled 200

Reena Sen, Bombay.
Q. What is the number of Kim Hughes' scores of double century?
A 213 by Kim Hughes against India at Adelaide in 1980-81 was the double century in Tests

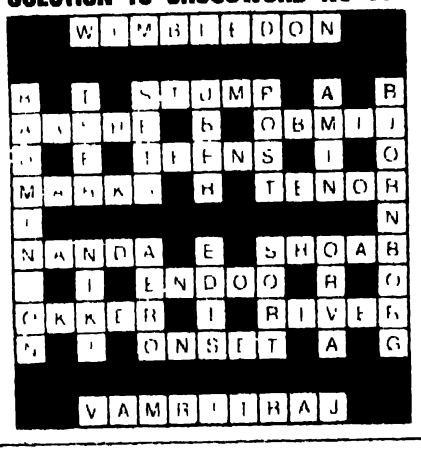
Dulal Chandra Misra, Tangla
Q. How many Indians have been out on 99?
A. P Roy, M L Jaisimha, A L Wadekar and R F Surti

Narendra Theeng, Darjeeling
Q Is there any record of a country winning all the 5 Tests of a series If so, give details
A. Yes 4 times Australia defeated England in Australia in 1920-21, South Africa in Australia in 1931-32, England defeated India in England in 1959 and West Indies defeated India in West Indies in 1961-62 in all the five Tests of the aforesaid 5-Test series
Q How many Tests have been played between India and New Zealand? What were the results of those Tests? What was the result of the first ever Test

SPORTY



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 114



between these two countries?
A. 25, out of which India has won 10, New Zealand 4 and the remaining 11 drawn The first Test between the two countries was drawn at Hyderabad in 1955-56

Keshab Ghosh, Purnea.

Q Give the score of the innings in which Sir Gary Sobers made 365 not out

A. C C Hunte—run out 260, R B Kanhai—c Imtiaz Ahmed b Fazal Mahmood 25, G S Sobers—not out 365, E D Weekes—c Hanif Mohammad b Mahmood 39, C L Walcott—not out 88, Extras 13, Total 790 for 3 decl

Anil Kumar Gupta, Calcutta

Q. How many ducks Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests?

A. Seven

K. S. Narayan, Jagtial

Q. At which Test centre, most Tests have been staged?

A. Melbourne—72 Tests

Chandi Goswami

Q. Let me know who are the South African bowlers who have captured over 100 wickets in Tests

A H J Tayfield (170), T L Goddard (123), P M Pollock (116), N A T Adcock (104)

Qamarul Hoda, Rourkela

Q How many Pak cricketers have scored triple centuries?

A. Only one—Hanif Mohammad who made the third highest score of 337 vs West Indies at Bridgetown in 1957-58

Abhijit, Debajit and Kalachand Paul, Raiganj

Q Who scored the fastest century for West Indies?

A K H Weekes who reached the 100-run mark in 110 minutes in the third Test vs England at The Oval in 1939

Amitabha Pant, Manoj Pant.

Q When where and against whom Sir Don Bradman make his Test debut?

A Sir Don Bradman of Australia played his first Test against England at Brisbane in 1928-29

Atulya Kumar, Narkataraganj

Q What is the date and place of birth of Kirti Azad?

A 2nd January 1959 at Purnea in Bihar

Debashish Rau, Prabin Chakravorty, Bannani Chakraborty, Dibrugarh

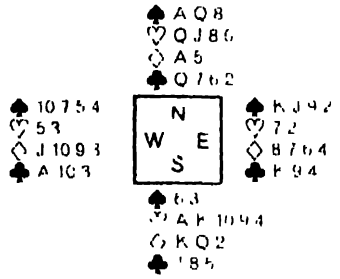
Q Who was Kirmani's first victim in Tests? How did he dismiss him?

A Kirmani st Bevan Congdon off Bedi for 58 in the 2nd Test vs New Zealand at Christchurch in 1975-76

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

If you remember last week's article, in which I discussed the certainty of A Q 9 facing three low cards giving two tricks in a suit end play, while A Q 8 facing low cards was not quite enough for surety, you will be struck by the similarity of this week's deal Surprise, surprise, there was A Q 8 again! This time there was a slightly different setting and the declarer that I watched missed the point of the hand completely This was the deal



South dealt at love all and the bidding was slightly artificial, but acceptable South opened one heart (showing a five card suit) North responded 1 NT (forcing) and South, compelled to bid on selected two clubs It didn't matter what he chose, for North went on to four hearts

North's sequence showed a high card raise to four-hearts (not distributional,) with no good side suit, not particularly good trumps and no surfeit of control. It sounds a great system I must take it up someday, and it certainly allowed both players to express their values and end in a sensible game

Against four hearts West led ♢ J and declarer won on the table, drew trumps and played off the diamonds to discard a club from the dummy Next came a low spade, but West unkindly put in the 10 Now, after ♠ Q had lost to the King, East had a safe spade return and in the fullness of time declarer could not avoid the loss of three club tricks to go one off How should he have played? There was a neat solution When he cashed the winning diamonds he should discard dummy's ♠ 8 Then, scorning any possible finesse in the suit, he simply plays off ♠ A and ♠ Q Whoever wins this has to concede a ruff and discard or open the clubs to give South his 10th trick

Last week's quiz A reader asked, "What were attitude leads, and have they any advantage?" A difficult question The idea is that, if leading from a long suit against a contract, the lower the card you lead, the greater your interest in the suit, so if you lead the 2 of a good suit from J 7 6 2 you choose the suggested possession

All well and good in most hands, but if partner has the better advantage of the odd honour card against you it is not difficult to work out from partner's cards the leader held Your pays your money

This week's quiz At rubber all to bid and play you hold ♠ 5 ♡ ♢ ♣ K Q J 10 9 5 and deal Do you open the bidding and how do your personal holding and method influence your decision?

Chess

Peter Clarke

The ninth attempt to murder Fischer was published at £4.95 in paperback with a view to murder the author to be tried with us. Alexander Kotov, one of the Soviet Union's most distinguished grandmasters and a former candidate for the World Championship, died in January at the age of 67. In the last book, which complements his earlier *Think Like a Grandmaster* and *Play Like a Grandmaster* he tries to elucidate the best methods of studying chess and developing a philosophy for playing. He is, in places, sharply critical of today's generation, warning them that too many tournament play may prevent them from acquiring the creative and talented approach needed at the highest level

It would seem that apart from Karpov, only Robert Hubner has made a significant breakthrough, and his appearances are comparatively rare Competitors like Andersson, Ljubo and Timman have still a lot to do to, but they can hope to emulate Kotov's performance in the 1952 Interzonal, where he started with eight successive wins and finished three points clear of the field Here is a memorable victory from that event

White **Alexander Kotov;** Black **Gedeon Barcza** Queen's Pawn Game, Indian Defence, Interzonal Tournament, Saltsjobaden 1952

1 P - Q4, Kt - KB3,	**2 P - QB4, P - KKt3**
3 Kt - QB3, B - Kt2,	**4 P - K4, P - Q3**
5 P - KKt3, 0 - 0,	**6 B - Kt2, P - K4**
7 KKt - K2, P x P,	**8 Kt x P, Kt - B3**
9 Kt - B2, B - K3,	**10 P - Kt3, Q - Q2**
11 0 - 0, B - R6,	**12 P - B3, B x B**
13 K x B, P - QR3,	**14 B - Kt2, Kt - R2**

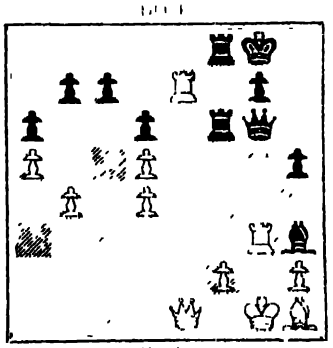
Black's [illegible] gives [illegible] to the Q side. White [illegible] of the [illegible] Black [illegible] White's

15 Q - Q2, P - QKt4	**16 Kt - K3, P - B1**
17 QR - Q1, QR - Q1	**18 Kt - K2, Q - B2**
19 B - B3, Q - K2	**20 Kt - Q4, Kt - K1**
21 Kt(Q4) - B5	

[illegible] advantage [illegible]

21 . P x Kt,	**22 Kt x P, Q - B2**
23 Kt x B, Kt x Kt,	**24 B - B6, K - R1**
25 Q - Kt5, R - KKt1,	**26 P - KR4, QR - K1**
27 P - R5, R - K4,	**28 B x R, P x B**
29 Q - B6', Kt - B1,	**30 P - R6, Kt - K2**
31 R - Q2, Resigns	

Competition G484 [illegible]



White to play

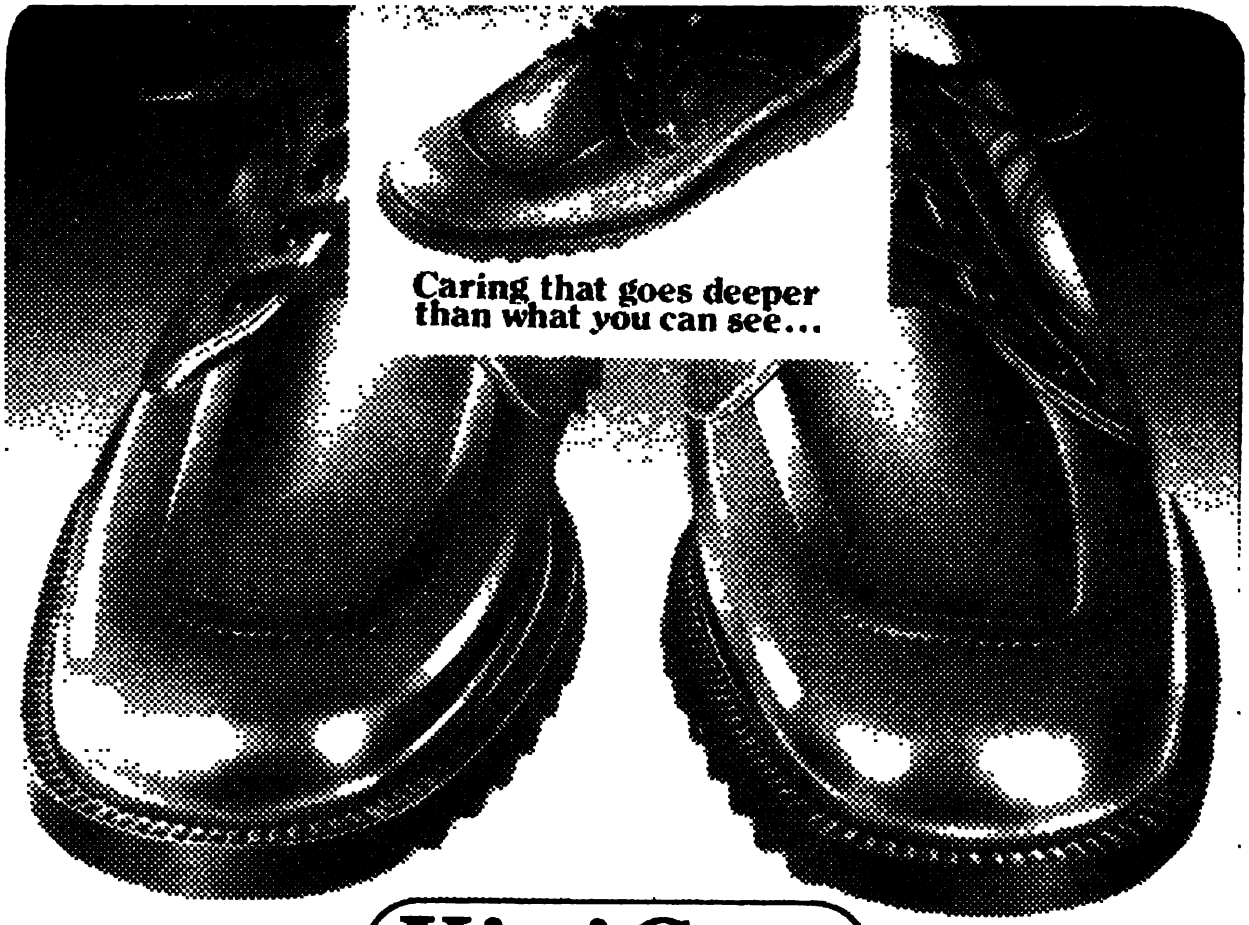
Black to play and [illegible]

Solution to G483 (Strauss - Bisguier, Lone Pine, 1979) (1Q6,5ppk P3b3 4Pq2/4p1P1 2B1P3/3PB1K1/7r - Black to play.) The attack on the White King, supported by cover and defence, [illegible] 42 . . R R/6 43 K x R, Q - R5 ch 44 K - Kt Q - B6 ch, 45 K - Kt1 Q x B ch 46 K - Kt1 Q x P ch, and White resigned at 47 K - B2 (but 47 Q - B6 ch 48 K - Kt, B - R6, 49 Q - Kt6 Q - KKt8 ch 50 K - B2, Q - B8 mate)

Problem No 1149. Solution to [illegible]

B. P. Barnes (1st Prize, *The Problemist*, 1961) **(K1Bb1BQR/7b, R3pn2/5r1k/7p/6pN/6P1/8 - 8 white men; 8 black.)** White to play and [illegible] moves

Solution to No 1148 (Rudenko). (4b3/4B3 1K3p2 2RpkP2.3NpN2.3PqP1B 1Q6/2b1R3 - mate in two.) 1 Q - B6? threat 2 R x P (a) 1 . . B - B1 2 B x B, (b) 1 . . Q x Kt(Q5), 2 Kt - Kt6 (c) 1 . . Q x Kt(B5), 2 R x KP



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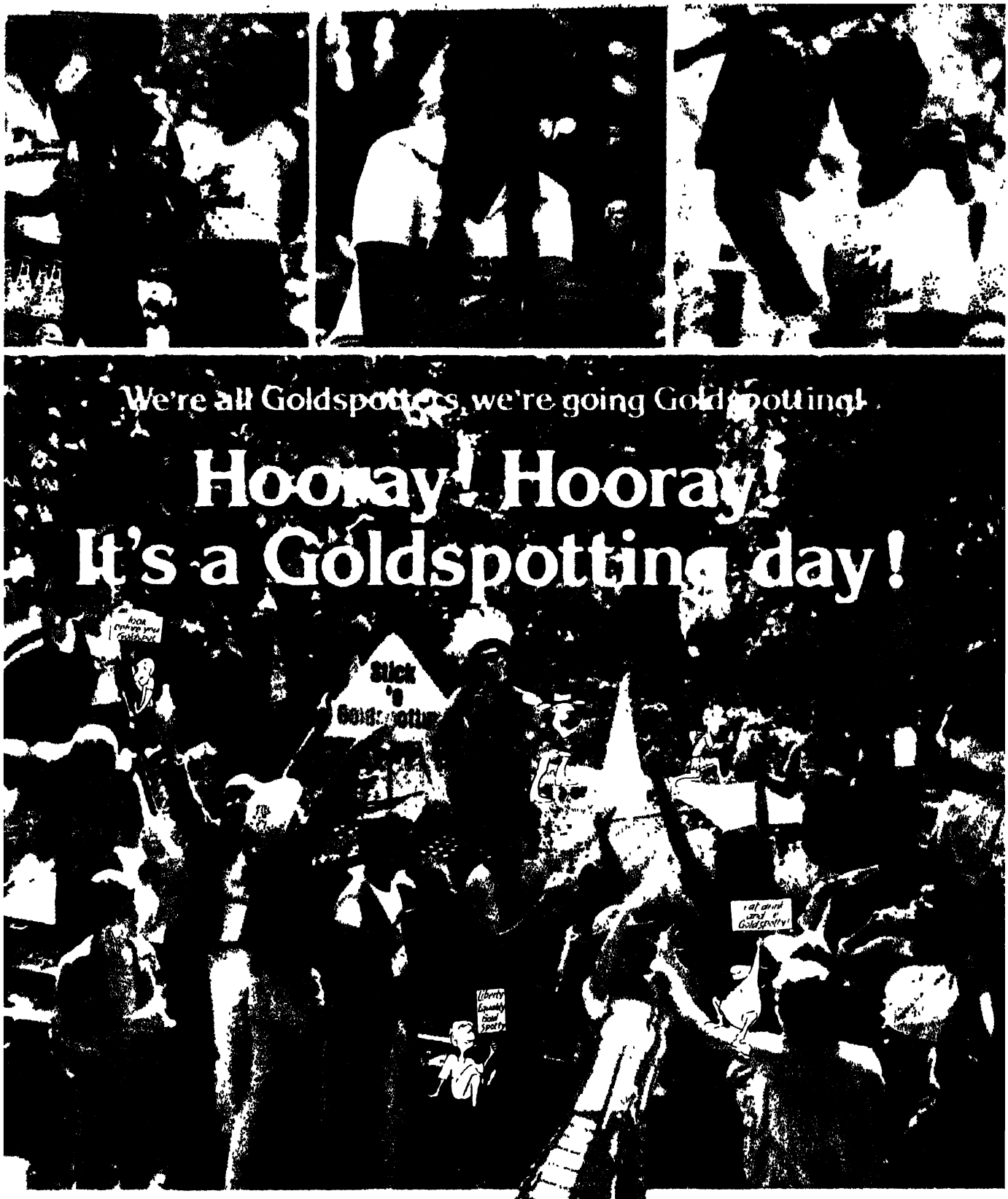
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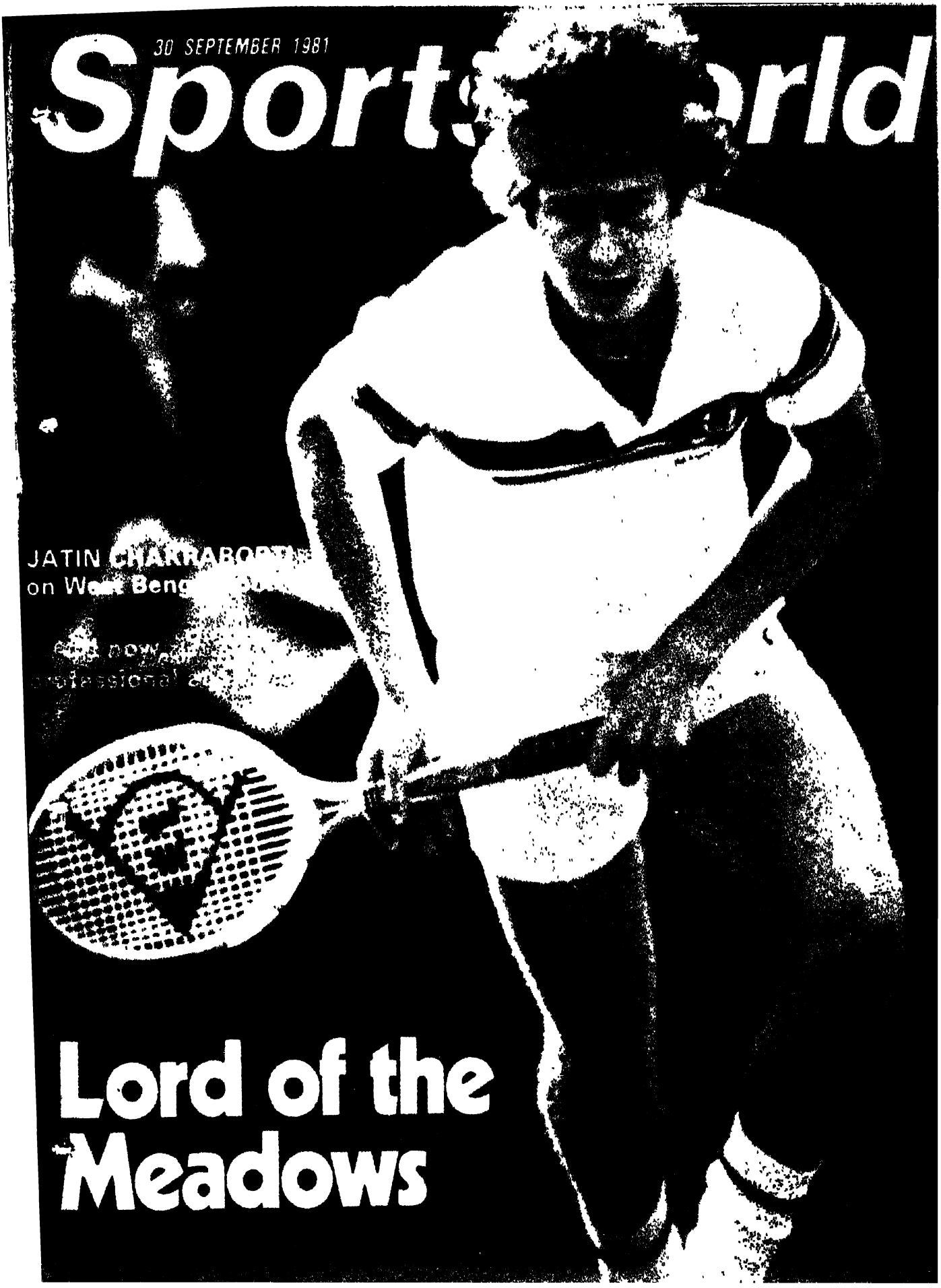
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Letters to the Editor

Try him

THE players in the England team to tour India and Sri Lanka this winter are not of great calibre The team seems to be handicapped in some quarters For example, apart from Underwood and Emburey, the team should have had at least one right-arm spinner either in the person of Geoff Miller or of Phil Edmonds In the department of pace bowling also Paul Allot could have been replaced by Gehan Mendis, who fared so well in the County matches

Since the English team is not very strong it is better to give a chance to those Indian players who have not yet played any Tests In this context, I request the Board of Control for Cricket in India to try the burly Bengal paceman Barun Burman in at least one Test against England this winter If players like Yograj Singh and Roger Binny could make it to the final eleven, I do not see any reason why Burman should not be tried once The Bengal bowler is much better than either Yograj or Binny He is a brilliant fielder, bats gallantly and, above all holds promise as a bowler

In fact, it has been a tradition to deprive East Zone players of a place in the Test side, otherwise Sambaran Banerjee could have donned the Indian cap as a wicket-keeper long ago Sambaran is superior to either Reddy or Surinder Khanna, who toured England in 1979 and turned out to be miserable failures I rate Banerjee as only next to Syed Kirmani in this country

I hope that Barun Burman will prove the ideal partner for Kapil Dev

PRABAL GUHA,
Baliyan North

Errors

I was astonished to find a couple of mistakes in a recent issue of *Sportsworld* First, the answers published in the September 2 issue under CRIQUIZ were the same as those given in the August 26 issue I wonder what happened to the solutions of CRIQUIZ of the August 26 issue

The Question Box column was also replete with mistakes The date of birth of Syed Kirmani was stated as 29th December, 1951 In fact, Mr Sudhir Vaidya has made Kirmani younger by two years because he was actually born on 29th December, 1949

In reply to another question concerning the bowling figures of Len Pascoe, some irrelevant numbers were given The number of catches held by Gary Sobers in his Test career was given as 110 But Sobers actually held 109 catches

Further, the name of Geoff Howarth was wrongly published as Geoff Boycott in the answer of another question

JAYESH RANJAN,
Dhanbad

Excellent article

I congratulate Haresh Munwani for having written an excellent article on Sandeep Patil who happens to be the most reliable batsman in the Indian team at present Sandeep along with Chetan Chauhan, tried to keep up the prestige of Indian cricket on the last twin tour of Australia and New Zealand That Sandeep will be a great cricketer in future is proved by his self confidence, but all credit goes to his parents who actually brought up this great cricketer Our country is in need of thousands of such parents

Sandeep is now an automatic choice for the present national team He will mature into a great batsman in future His statement -" I know there is a high element of risk in my kind of batting but the point is I have always believed in taking risks I live by those rules" speaks volumes for his determination to become great Sandeep has established himself as an outstanding cricketer I wish him glorious success this winter in the coming series against England

DHRUBAJYOTI BORAH
Assam

Misunderstood?

MR Saibal Guha of Assam wrote in the issue of August 26 that my letter was purely "self contradictory" I would ask Mr Guha to go through my letter once more carefully before making such a ridiculous comment

He could hardly understand what I actually wrote "Certainly Gavaskar does not belong to the category of either Viv Richards or Greg Chappell"—this comment is generally made by those who overlook Gavaskar's greatness and refuse to acknowledge his genius I never made such a foolish statement about Gavaskar On the other hand to prove Gavaskar as a world class batsman I have cited some concrete examples I never compared Gavaskar with either Richards or Chappell, because I personally believe that every class batsman is a master of his own technique and style, and for this reason, I never said that Chappell Richards or Boycott are not of Gavaskar's class I never underestimated them or Gavaskar Don Bradman, Gary Sobers, Len Hutton and Mike Brearley have rated him as one of the greatest batsmen of all time I think, these stalwarts of cricket understand cricket slightly better than we

ARUP ROY,
Calcutta

High time

WITH only two and a half months to go before the first Test between England and India at the Wankhede Stadium at Bombay, it is high time that we should start our preparations in right earnest

My suggestion is that an 18 member squad should be named and a physical training camp started Normally we name our squad some 15 days prior to the Test and then arrange for the physical training camp But this period of 15 days is inadequate, simply because it usually takes about two months for the players to reach their peak

Past experiences have shown that it is of no use to select 30 players for the camp because almost half of them do not even come near the Test standard within the 15 days period I suggest the naming of 18 players, who really fall in the category of Test cricket I am aware that the season has not yet started, but then the selectors know the standard of all the players

In my opinion, the following players should be called for the training camp Gavaskar, Chauhan, Vengsarkar, Vishwanath, Patil, Yashpal, Kapil, Ghavri, Kirmani, Shastri, Yadav, Doshi, S Viswanath (w.k.), Arun Lal, Sunil Walson, Gopal Sharma, Srinivasan and Madanlal

P S MONY,
Trivandrum

Exciting

THE Anglo Australian battle for the Ashes is now over But what an exciting series this has been! Two Tests were decided by the margin of 18 and 28 runs respectively and there were some brilliant performances by Ian Botham, Dennis Lillee, Terry Alderman and Allan Border

For Botham, this series proved a resurrection from his dark days of captaincy He scored 399 runs with two whirlwind centuries and took 35 wickets, capturing more than 200 wickets in the process in a mere 41 Tests He was also at the threshold of crossing the 2000 runs mark, in Test cricket Botham is all set to create many records in the near future While Geoff Boycott duly completed a century of Tests and will probably break Sobers' record of 8032 runs in Test cricket (although he is no match for Sir Gary's batting prowess), Dennis Lillee is poised to demolish Lance Gibbs' record of 309 wickets.

With the MCC tour of India round the corner, and the Australians taking on the mighty West Indians and the Pakistanis this winter, we are just about to witness new landmarks in the record book of Test cricket

S ACHARYA,
Patna

Forgotten

ALTHOUGH Ian Botham and Mike Brearley played a great part in England's victory over Australia this summer, the man who did so much for England has been absolutely forgotten Yes, I mean Ken Barrington whose contribution to the 1981 Ashes win is immense It was under Barrington's tenure as Assistant Manager and coach that England produced such talented cricketers as David Gower, Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, John Emburey and Ian Botham Barrington may not have had a hand in shaping these players in their early careers, but he channelised these talents in the right direction and extracted the best of these players

In the euphoria over the magnificent victory against Australia, let us not forget this great man

DEEPAK GOIL,
Bangalore

Identification

IN response to the quiz for the readers given on page 12 in the issue of September 9, many letters have reached us. Of course, we are happy to announce, John Verghese and P L. Venkat have correctly identified the player as Shabbir Ali

Editor.

Better side

I AGREE with Sarajit Deb when he says that AIFF could have chosen a better Indian side for the Merdeka soccer tournament For any future tournament, Subrata Bhattacharya, Premnath Philip, Prasanta Banerjee and Manash Bhattacharya should be selected in place of Sudip Chatterjee, Aslam Khan, Krishnendu Roy and Vijay Kumar respectively

But I disagree with the author on one point Subrata Bhattacharya is definitely not the best stopper in India today; Manoranjan Bhattacharya is undoubtedly the leading stopper in the country I suggest the following Indian team in any future tournament Bhaskar, Shyamal, Manoranjan, Subrata, Philip, Prasanta, Parminder, Manash, Shabbir, Gurung (Bidesh)

SHARMILA GUHA,
Baljan North

Well-balanced

THE English cricket team to tour India under the captaincy of Keith Fletcher is a well-balanced side The impending series against England will be a challenging one for India, because the English players are now full of confidence, having beaten Australia by a 3-1 margin

India faces an uphill task as the English team is a blend of attacking and experienced batsmen—Geoff Boycott, Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch and the world class all rounder, Ian Botham However, the team suffers from a deficiency in the department of spin bowling, as it has only two recognised spinners while the pitches at Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur are favourable to the spinners

RAJNISH CHOPRA,
Chandigarh

Congratulations

HEARTY congratulations to *Sportsworld* for providing two excellent pieces in the issue of August 26 Chris Evert Lloyd is my favourite lady in the world of sport So to read about her heartbreaks and ambitions was an added attraction for me The second piece was the one on Mike Brearley written by Raju Mukherjee The article on the scholar skipper was indeed a masterpiece

JAYANTA NANDI ROY,
Gauhati

One more

GEOFF BOYCOTT has added one more to his vast stock of records in the recently concluded fifth Test against Australia at Old Trafford When Boycott reached seven in England's first innings, he became the scorer of maximum runs for England in Tests, beating Colin Cowdrey's record of 7,624 runs

Reaching this landmark, Boycott required 11 Tests less than Cowdrey While Cowdrey had to play 114 Tests (188 innings) to score 7,624 runs, Boycott has so far played 103 Tests (182 innings) to score these runs Now he is next only to Sir Gary Sobers who holds the record of scoring the most runs—8,032 runs in 93 Tests (160 innings)—in Test cricket

I hope he will demolish Sobers' world record of 8,032 runs during the coming series against India.

W RAVI VINCENT,
Madras.

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

PAINFUL NEWS

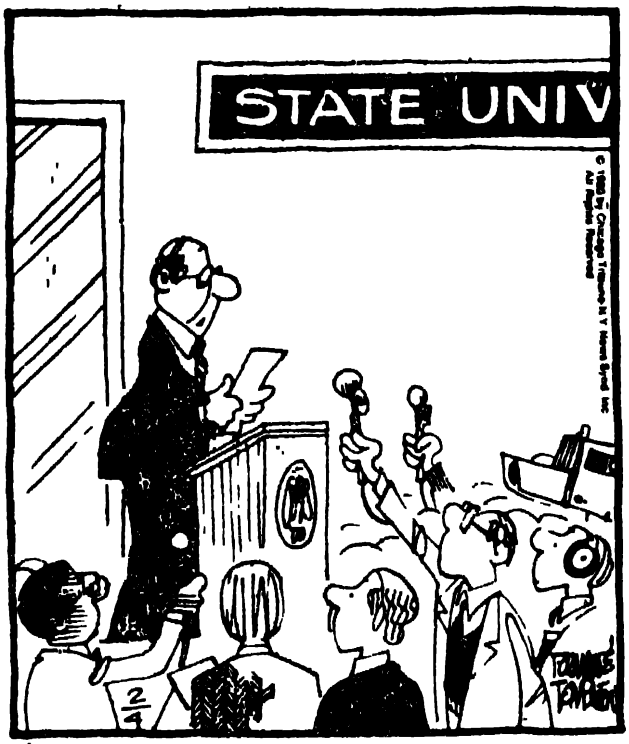
California: Gamblers are increasingly beginning to suffer from what's been called 'slot machine tendinitis'—a shoulder pain which is an "occupational hazard" of one-arm bandit players While video-game fanatics suffer from 'space invaders' wrist, due to the frequent use of the space invaders' control arm requiring rapid arm movements So what's the cure? Doctors prescribe retirement—or an early jackpot!

SPORTSMILES
Stay spiritually Fit—jog to church
Karate is Chop Talk
Duelling is a sworded affair
A Golf Course is a site to be holed
A handsome athletics star is a Sprints Charming

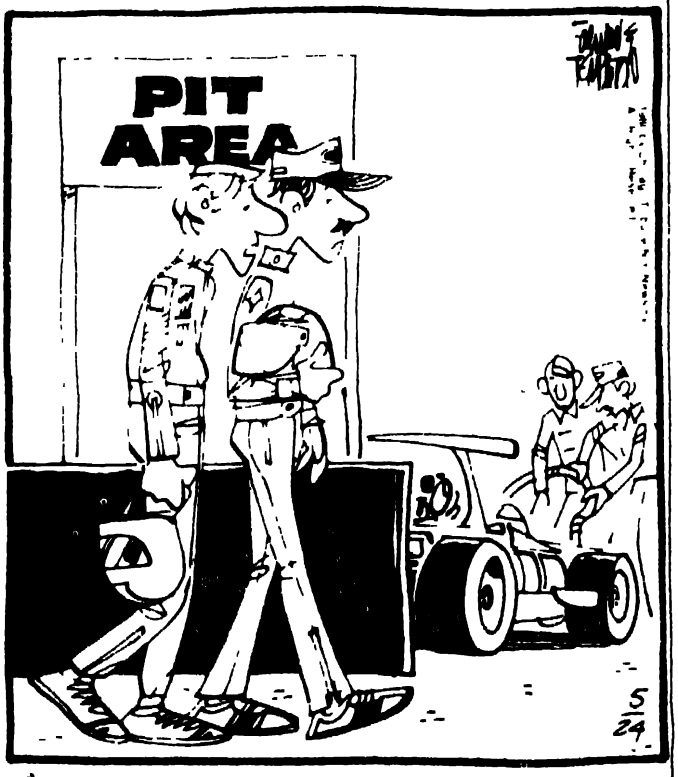
NEVER ON A SUNDAY
Amsterdam: Elders of the Calvinist Church community in the small Dutch town of Waddinxveen have forbidden one of their congregation 21-year-old Gerda den Besten to marry Derek Havenaar the man she loves because he plays soccer for a local club on Sundays—the Lord's day of rest. The religious consider it a sin even to have the TV/radio on, on that day So Derek has no option but to find a place in a club that plays on Saturdays

BJORN TO SAVE
Gstaad: Bjorn Borg may have lost his Wimbledon title this year, but the multi-millionaire tennis ace is a born saver of other things— like money, for instance He changed his hotel this year in London because it would not offer him free board and lodging And his wife Mariana still washes and irons all his clothes herself, in hotel washbasins—to save cash! The guy just can't bear to lose

B TELLIS



"FOUR TRUSTEES STATE THAT FIRING A COACH IS A DEMEANING, BARBARIC PRACTICE WELL BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF OUR UNIVERSITY... AND SEVENTEEN TRUSTEES WANT TO THROW THE BUM OUT."



"I GOTTA GET TOP PRIZE MONEY JUST TO PAY OFF THE GAS BILL!"



"THANK GOD TY COBB DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE THIS!"

Yet another bastion falls

The decision to allow professionalism, albeit indirectly, is going to affect the world athletic scene. ARIJIT SEN reports from London

AT long last the bastion of amateurism has fallen Athletics, 'the original sport' and the one most steadfastly adhering to the concept of 'sport for sport's sake' has become the latest hunting ground for commercialism The International Amateur Athletic Federation had a change of president in Rome from Adrian Paulen to the Italian Primo Nebiolo A day before this switch came the momentous decision to allow professionalism

Of course, it is too early to say that professional athletes—born out of the decision—would not participate in the Los Angeles Olympics International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch, attending the IAAF meeting, seemed to endorse the decision "It is impossible for me to see some athletes taking part in the World Championships and not the Olympic Games If athletics wants to create a professional group such as in skiing, then it's perfectly all right" But this is a personal opinion, which will have to be endorsed by other IOC members when they meet at the Olympic congress in Baden Baden later this month

The move to regularise payments to athletes has been done in such a manner that the label 'professional' may be hard to pin on to athletes The arrangement is that athletes will be allowed to endorse products or services, but the money accrued would be handled by their respective national athletics associations The details are still not clear, but the athletes have been allowed to negotiate their own contracts. The money they earn will have to be kept in a trust fund for them by the national associations, a large part of which will be given to them after their track and field days are over

But, seeing the initial reaction to the move here in Britain, I feel most of the money will be taken by the athletes as soon as the contracts are finalised. The IAAF has ruled that although no direct payments could be made to athletes, the latter could receive monetary assistance with regard to "accommodation, food, transport, education and professional training" Each item, here could run into several thousand pounds (and lakhs of rupees, for that matter) Accommodation could mean full loan for a house, transport could be the buying of a car, and the amounts for food, education and professional training could ever be really completed in exact terms

There are, of course, other issues still to be decided At the moment, this IAAF decision regularises what many have suspected for long Several world class athletes were, in fact, being assisted by business houses, though

Tyke Peacock of the USA leads for the men's high jump gold at Rome He crossed 2.28 metres



this was being done on a low key and in future interest.

The pressure was actually on for prize money in this sport. Buffeted by the strong wind of commercialism blowing through every sport, it was only a matter of time that resistance in athletics crumbled. Thus, it was a working committee that prepared a paper on the subject, hoping to get professionalism in by the back door.

THE meeting in Rome proved that athletics arbiters were more than ready to take the plunge The total complement was 528 When voting was over, one found only 14 votes against the move and a crushing majority of 330 for it In taking this decision, however, the members did not probably realise that this was the first step towards a total change in the context of the Olympic rules And, of course, athletics

The move was initially made by the Americans, which is understandable since the bulk of advertising prospects are in that country But Britain was a close second, backed by a large number of countries to which a decision either way could not make much of a difference (Initially, there was some confusion about the rule The president of the European Amateur Athletic Association, Arthur Gold, felt that the decision was only in the nature of a recommendation not a new rule There was also the feeling that this would become operative from April, 1982 But both suggestions were dismissed by the IAAF general secretary, John Holt He said that the move towards payments for advertisement was a rule and that it was effective from the day it was passed)

One cannot really visualise what effect this will have on Indian athle-



Renaldo Nehemiah—will reap a rich harvest

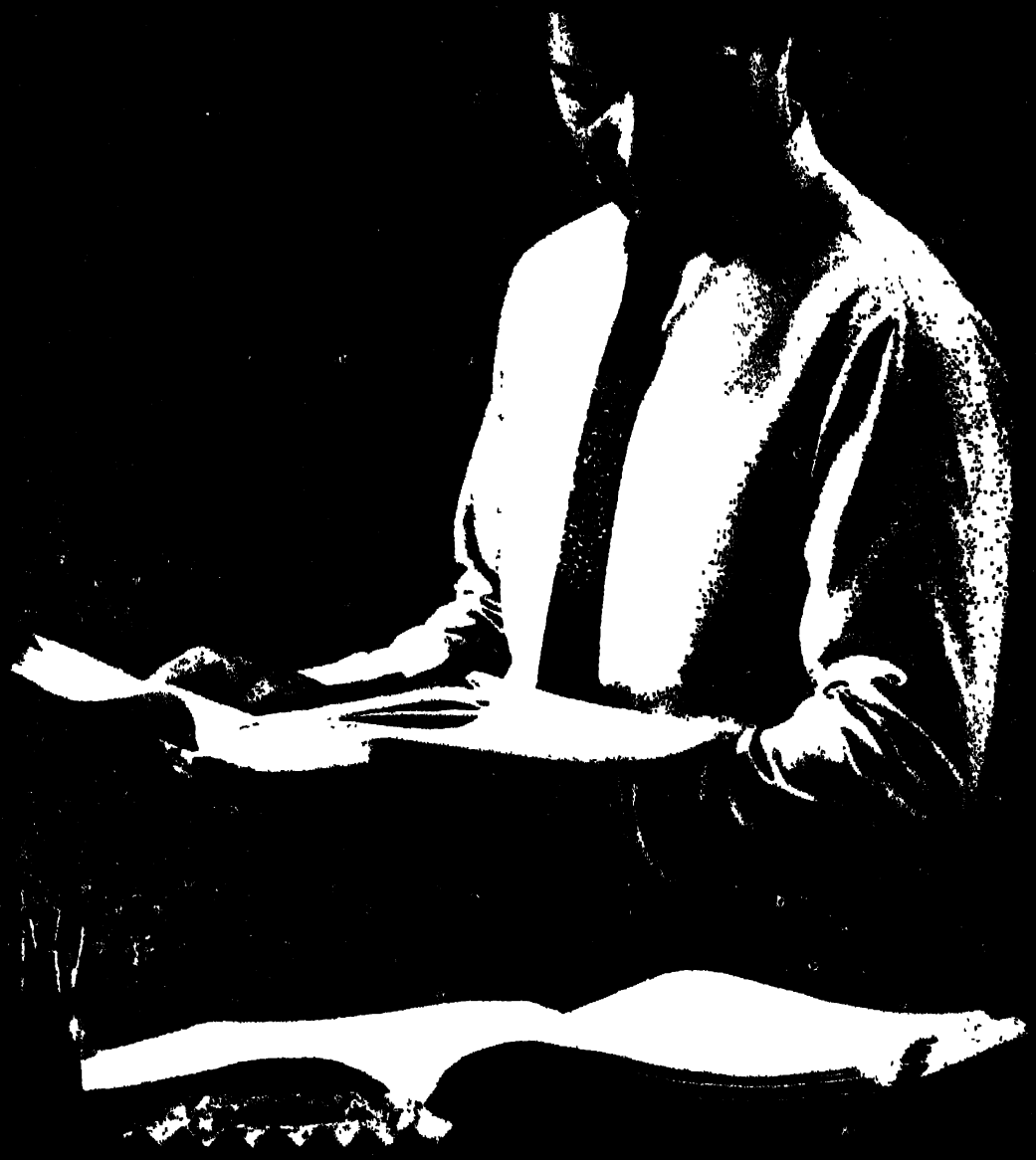
Eamonn Coghlan (46) of Ireland who won the gruelling 5 000m with ease after Henry Rono opted out following a row with the African committee



tics From the recent World Cup showing, one realises that there is a world of difference in performance India is really nowhere on the world athletics map But there are a few glamour personalities in the Asian context. These will not be free to advertise products and expect some return through the devious means outlined by the IAAF But a Sriram Singh here and a Geeta Zutshi there will not do much for the average Indian athlete For him will remain the rudimentary tracks, ancient equipment and an insurmountable wall of official apathy

In Europe things are vastly different The World Cup in Rome saw the money rolling in The IAAF, entitled to 50 per cent of television fees and 20 per cent of the advertising revenue, netted a total of about 45 lakhs, while the Italian Athletics Federation received, in addition to that amount, the nett returns from gate receipts —about 36 lakhs and now, commercial races are being planned everywhere, with New York first on the list this month with the 'Fifth Avenue mile' In addi

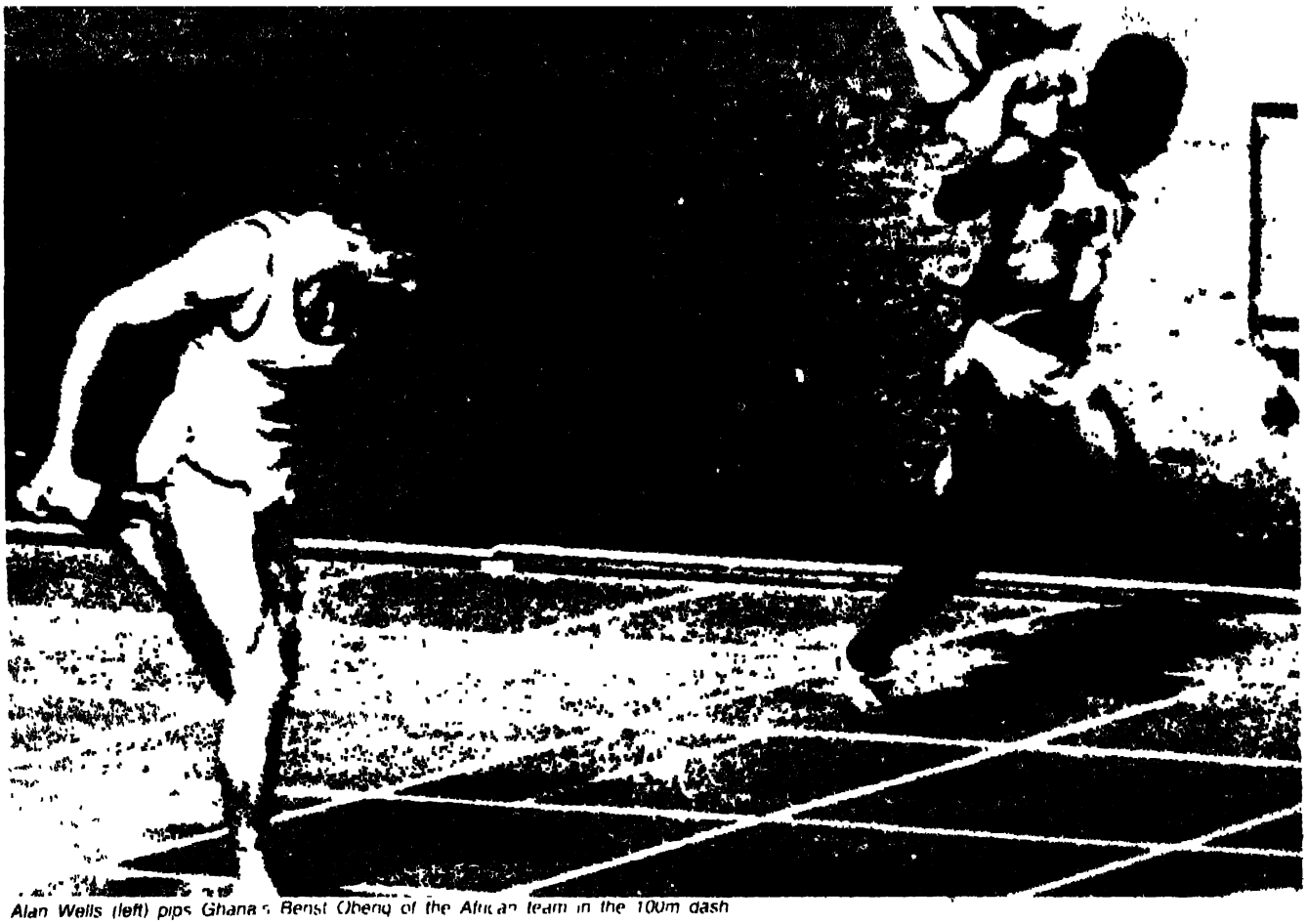
A certain kind of man
will only be seen in plains...



In polyester and polyester blends from Mafatlal.

A man who has grown into a discerning individual. Whose style is never loud but quiet. An assertion of a distinctive personality.

Mafatlal Shirting



Alan Wells (left) pips Ghana's Benst Oheng of the African team in the 100m dash

tion to the interest generated by high pressure advertising, New Yorkers will welcome the idea because it means the road will get a face lift (Calcuttans will be surprised by the similarity in the 'holey' road surfaces)

ONE hurdle has been crossed The focus is now on the demand for prize money and 'appearance money' The former is an accepted offer for major sport events but the latter seems like a gladiatorial format These issues will be debated at next year's congress in Athens But, by then, preparations will be in full swing for the first World Championships, to be staged in Helsinki

In the meantime, the future of the World Cup seems to be assured, although it was originally meant to be just a forerunner of the World Championships The next cup meet, scheduled for 1985, will be held either in Japan or Australia, depending on which centre has a larger IAAF pull, Tokyo or Canberra

But to get back to athletics, while people like Renaldo Nehemiah will reap a rich harvest in the United States, athletes like Seb Coe and Steve Ovett in Britain are waiting for the offers to come in Coe, already receiving 50 to 60 offers a week (before the IAAF decision) now expects the same number every day "But I'm not negotiating directly Let us see how things go. As long as this is handled properly by the national associations and the federations, it is a good thing. Each individual will have to decide what he wants to do It is certainly better than any move to bring in cash prizes It is not just going to affect top-flight athletes such as myself and Steve It will go much further down the sport You might have an athlete who is asked to advertise by his local butcher"

The light vein apart, Coe's contracts are likely to be handled by the International Management Group, headed by Mark McCormack, who looks after the financial side of Bjorn Borg's career Although the company denied having to do anything with Coe, it is known that Peter Coe Seb's father has a contract with them

Ovett has decided to fall in with the Amateur Athletic Association He has give them the right to negotiate on his behalf The AAA treasurer, Ray Stroud, will resign next month to run a new company the AAA will set up The IAAF's plan for trust funds will enable Ovett to draw his earnings after defraying expenses under the items allowed by the IAAF for 'running athletes'

WORLD CUP

DESPITE the hullabaloo over the change from pure amateurism to present day necessity, the Olympic Stadium was agog with excitement over the prospect of a world class treat But this was denied in large measure by the old Roman skies, which kept opening up to allow rain to soak the artificial surface

The meet as expected, failed to provide a rash of records The conditions precluded such an outcome But the combined team from Europe sounded a clear warning to world leaders USA, USSR and the GDR The final World Cup standings showed Europe in first place with 147 points, followed by East Germany (130),USA (127), USSR (118), combined Americas (95) and Italy (93) Africa notched 66, Oceania 61 and Asia were last with 59 The women's scene was slightly different, with GDR topping the list with 120 5 points, followed by Europe (110), USSR (98), USA (89), Americas (72), Italy (68 5), Oceania (58), Asia (32) and Africa bringing up the rear with 26 points

But these are mere figures What one saw was great progress made by the Europeans, with England dominating the sprints, the 800 metres and the 1500 metres While Coe took charge of the 800 metres, Ovett kept his 1500 metres place up front Alan Wells won the 100 metres dash, but finished second behind USA's Mel Lattany in the 200 metres, attributing his defeat since the Olympic Games last year to a case of stomach cramps In the women's 100 metres, Kathy Smallwood came in from the reserves to take second spot behind Evelyn Ashford of the United States Then, with Henry Rono taking himself out of the 5000



Steve Scott—did not participate at Rome

metres event following a row with the African committee, it was relatively easy for Eamon Coghlan of Ireland to win

USA was upset by the absence of Steve Scott to battle with his namesake in the 1500 metres and the world's best 110 metres hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah To make matters worse, Henry Marsh was disqualified after winning the steeplechase when it was discovered that he had missed the water jump on the last lap Other disappointments included world-record holder Marita Koch's display in the 400 metres, where she was pushed to second place by Czechoslovakia's Jarmila Kratochilova

The two Indian stars in Rome were barely visible Geeta Zutshi kept a place in the front bunch of the 800 metres runners for less than a quarter of the distance Thereafter, she fast faded away, lacking pace and stamina, to come struggling a distant last

Gopal Saini was in the 5,000 metres and very evident for more than half distance. He led the pack and seemed to be going strongly Even when he fell back slightly, he was in the pack of six that led through the rather slow race But his positioning was all wrong. When he went behind the leaders, he kept to the kerb and one could see his rhythm being upset by the two people ahead of him in the first lane And when the others opened up in the last lap, Saini did not have any strength left to compete He finished just ahead of the Oceanian and African participants.

These were but two of the examples of the kind of fare provided in Rome By allowing Asia, Africa and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) the field was far less competitive than it could have been if it was thrown open to the best talents However, Asians, exposed to world class competitors, could be expected to improve as a result of the experience. And this is true of the hordes of Japanese and some Chinese who took part.

The best of enemies

ARIJIT SEN follows the footprints of Coe and Ovett, the masters of the mile track

ON my left—the champion of the poor, Steve Ovett..on my right—the fresh-faced, Loughborough economics student who represents the haves of the world, Sebastian Coe. Sitting in the middle, in London, I can almost feel the punting spirit spilling over into a ten quid note on either—depending on who is racing—to break a record.

Yes the rivalry—not always gentlemanly—between Coe and Ovett has reached epic proportions Not that anyone is regretting it, though Between them, the two have torn to shreds the mile block that saw its first thread come asunder under the severe pounding of Roger Bannister (But there is an age that separates that first burst under four minutes and the current battle between the two Britons It is at once an unprecedented assault on the mile and a bitter battle against the clock)

As things stand, the Coe-Ovett feud could set the clock back much further than the 3 min 47 33 sec that stands as the latest electronic proof of the battering the mile is taking

The "Britons' war" began in right earnest on July 17, 1979, when Coe returned a time of 3 min 48 95 sec Less than a year after, on July 1, 1980. it was Steve Ovett who powered his way through to a mile in 3 min. 48.80 sec The rivalry was silent but determined Both runners devoted their energies to the breaking of records, as neither was willing to face the other in a direct clash

Then came the unbelievably torrid ten days in August this year On August 19, in Zurich, Coe set a scorching pace to cover the distance in 3 min 48 53 sec While the world watched with wonder, Steve Ovett went to Koblenz exactly a week later and pounded his way through the mile to chop off 0.13 seconds off Coe's time

Ovett's feat was in danger of not being considered as official The Koblenz meet did not originally include the mile event It was a last-minute inclusion Since the meeting programme did not include it, the record failed to qualify under the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules But the presence of IAAF officials and the meet organisers' pressure led one to believe that it would be ratified, the IAAF deciding to overlook the technical lacunae

But all that became quite unnecessary The reason? Sebastian Coe all

The greatest rivals—Steve Ovett (right) and Seb Coe The latter, who won the 800m silver at the Moscow Olympics is welcomed by Ovett on the podium



over again. Before going to Brussels for the "Citizen Golden Mile" Coe had said that the mile could come much quicker than it had in the past. "I can see the mile being run in less than 3 46 by the end of this decade" He was obviously talking seriously because at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels, which is barely 150 miles from Koblenz, Coe came in at 3 min 47.33 sec., a clear 1.07 seconds faster than Ovett

It was an unbelievable race American Tom Byers, who had paced Coe in Zurich and came in third when Ovett broke that record, told Coe that he would set the race up for him "In Zurich, I was sick and faded after 1,000 metres Here I could take it all the way to 1,200 metres and make it much easier for him" Byers kept his word

At the start of the race, of course, Coe had a lot of other pressures Initially, he had planned this race as one that he had to win The competition was fierce He had to face the German Thomas Wessinghage, New Zealand trooper John Walker, Spain's Jose-Luiz Gonzales, Kenya's 34-year-old Mike Boit and, above all, America's Steve Scott The latter had broken Jim Ryun's US mile 1,500 metres records and said he was in peak condition "For the first time this year, and perhaps ever, I can take on Seb and beat him," was his comment

A packed 40,000 capacity stadium roared as Tom Byers swept to the front from the gun and completed the first lap in 54 92 seconds, the fastest ever The second was completed in 1 54 92, again the best time so far All along, Coe kept right behind him But at the very next bend, Coe appeared to stumble, apparently hitting the curb But he didn't fall, surging ahead, instead, Byers faded out

But Mike Boit was barely three strides behind. And he kept going strongly, at one stage threatening to take the lead. With a lap to go, Coe appeared to flag He was, at that point, a little off the record-breaking time But he came back strongly in the last lap to finish with an amazing burst of speed Boit finished second in 3 49.45 and Steve Scott a distant third at 3·51 48 seconds

"I ran into Tom (Byers), but I wasn't going to fall", Coe said after he had run across to the corner of the bend where his father and coach, Peter, had been giving him interval times "There's still time to come off", he said.

This summer, Coe has set world records in 800 metres, 1,000 metres and the mile twice Turning 25 next month, Coe has run only six mile races and has broken the record three times But he has not yet been able to touch Ovett's 1,500 metres record

It is clear that the mile can still take a beating If he had not stumbled, Coe could have finished earlier Besides, he showed no signs of exhaustion after the race Naturally, one feels he can set a faster time, especially after his comment that "It's possible to go through the half way stage in 1 48 seconds".

Steve Ovett, the winner of the 1978 "mile of the century" at Tokyo, with Sharon Davies, Commonwealth Games double gold medallist







Seb Coe breasting the tape in record time in the 1000m at Oslo's Bislett Stadium in July last year compatriot Steve Ovett winning the 1500m at the same meet

We need honest men to help the cause of sport

RAJU MUKHERJI speaks to top officials to determine what can be done for sport and sportsmen in State of West Bengal

TO the sports-crazy people of Calcutta, the cigar smoking Jatin Chakraborti, affectionately known as "Jackieda" is a man after their own hearts Officially, he holds the portfolio of Minister for the Public Works Department and Housing in the Government of West Bengal However, his first love is sports and sportmen and he is a person who can never really stay away from the Maidan Although he has no locus standi in Calcutta sport circles, he is the man who nurses Calcutta sport as his own baby

SPORTSWORLD: A lot of sporting activities now take place at the Kshudiram Anusilan Kendra. Can we say that the Government can take the credit for this?

JATIN CHAKRABORTI: Partially, yes It is indeed satisfying to see young boys and girls undergoing strenuous practise at the coaching centre I think it is very commendable on the part of the West Bengal Sports Council for organising training camps in gymnastics, table tennis and badminton at the stadium

SW: But the Netaji Indoor Stadium is lying waste

JC: Not really International and National championships are held there from time to time

SW: That is true. But it is a shame to have such excellent facilities beyond the reach of aspiring sportsmen. We are sure you will agree that the Netaji Indoor Stadium was built with sports in mind

JC: Yes I realise that you are hinting at the musical soirees and exhibition wrestling contests that take place in that stadium Well, you will appreciate the high maintenance cost that the place requires, and so to make ends meet the Government needs the revenue from these sources

SW: But why is it not possible to have local championships in table tennis, basketball and badminton played here? We feel the Government makes enough money from those functions to provide facilities free of cost or at a nominal charge.

JC: I think it is a good idea We will look into the matter It deserves serious consideration

SW: The much-heralded Pankaj Gupta Indoor Stadium is another white elephant Do you think anything worthwhile will come out of it?

JC: Frankly, I am very disappointed with the Cricket Association of Bengal They wanted indoor facilities for cricket practice during the off season We provided them with space and helped out financially with the construction But these people want to be spoonfed all the time. They are rolling in wealth but they shirk responsibility when the question of maintenance crops up Even with regard to the ground at the Eden Gardens they are always complaining although we go out of our way to attend to these complaints I think they really should care more for the game

SW: Are you happy with the facilities inside the Pankaj Gupta Indoor Stadium?

JC: Not exactly There are a few problems but those can be rectified I remember at the time of construction some people mentioned misgivings regarding the playing surface and ventilation At that time senior cricketers and technical people assured us that everything would be fine. Now we have realised that not everything is as we wanted them to be However, once again let me repeat that minor problems can always be settled Here I would like to divert your attention to Ashoke Ghose, the AIFF secretary.

Existing system will remain

THE Home Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, RATHIN SENGUPTA takes a very keen interest in sporting affairs of the State. It is said that he and the PWD Minister become more tense than the players themselves on "big match" days during the Calcutta football season

SPORTSWORLD: As you might be well aware, there is a great disparity between the "big" and the "small" clubs at the Calcutta Maidan. Do you think this a healthy trend?

RATHIN SENGUPTA: It may not be a healthy trend but that is how it has been for a long time. By Calcutta football we mean Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting.

SW: That is unfortunately true. The smaller clubs constitute the nursery of Calcutta football and yet they never reap the fruits of their toil. Any suggestions for improvement?

RSG: Well, changing the existing system is impossible, I feel.

SW: As the Home Secretary, can you bring about any change?

RSG: Our activity revolves around giving grants and maintaining law and order.

SW: That means you cannot even keep a check on whether the grant is misutilised?

RSG: We don't really have the power or the machinery to check on whether the funds are properly used or not. I must add that there is no reason to feel that funds are being misused.

SW: As regards law and order, you must be happy to see the Maidan so peaceful this year.

RSG: Yes, everything is under control this season Last year's unfortunate incident forced us to stop football in Calcutta as we felt that the law and order problem would take an ugly turn.

SW: There are too many clubs in the first division, leading to a fall in standard. Any comment?

RSG: Yes, we know there are just too many clubs. In 1971 there were 14 clubs in the first division and the competition was fierce. Today there are no less than 27 clubs. Obviously the standard has suffered, but unfortunately our hands are tied

SW: Can't the Government do anything about the constant increase of clubs, fixing of matches etc?

RSG: We know very well about what goes on but we cannot do a thing Our problem is the moment we try to exercise control, the clubs and the association accuse us of interference as they did last August. However, we will remain very firm in our commitment to maintain law and order on the Maidan.



From left Ashoke Bhattacharya B K Saha Ashok Mitra (Secretary IFA), Rathin Sengupta and officials of East Bengal discuss a point with Jatin Chakraborti

Here is an honest man who loves the game He has even turned Rabindra Sarobar Stadium into an active football centre after years of neglect We need men like him. The main problem is the men we get are all with vested interest, fighting for power at the expense of talented sportsmen

SW. How is it that although your department is not really connected with sports, you go out of your way to make the sporting scene in Calcutta a success?

JC: Actually, I feel sorry for the way the officials play God with sportsmen I wish I had more power

SW: Don't you think we can utilise the existing facilities available at the different parks around Calcutta? Say, the tennis facilities at Deshapriya Park and Deshabandhu Park can be utilised by the Government for coaching youngsters by providing a subsidy to the respective clubs. The same goes for cricket at the White Border Club in Rabindra Sarobar Stadium and volleyball at the Boys' Training Association in Kalighat Park In fact, there are also other parks which have the infrastructure and which can easily be utilised for various sports.

JC: I think it is a very constructive suggestion I will speak to some influential colleagues and do something worthwhile

SW: Have you got anything constructive coming up soon?

JC: We have decided to have two grounds each, exclusively for cricket

We will concentrate on the rural areas

THE West Bengal Sports Council receives its regular share of criticism but hardly ever any praise. A deputy secretary with the Ministry of Education (Sports), ASHOKE BHATTACHARYA, who functions as the secretary of the WBSC feels that the criticism is without justification.

SPORTSWORLD: As the secretary of the WBSC, what are your major responsibilities?

ASHOKE BHATTACHARYA: WBSC looks after coaching schemes in various disciplines. We provide the finance and also supervise the projects. We concentrate mainly on the districts and at the moment have nearly 130 coaching schemes in different disciplines all over the State.

SW: What is your experience with the office bearers of various associations?

AB: Initially, I was very enthusiastic about working with them. But gradually I found that most were not really interested in the promotion of their respective sports.

SW: But then I guess you have no power over the units?

AB: No, none at all. The units have their constitutions to guide them. Our basic function is to allocate funds for coaching youngsters.

SW: How do you rate the coaching schemes at the district level?

AB: I am happy to say that we are very successful. We have unearthed some very talented youngsters in different disciplines. I am very optimistic about the development of sports in the rural areas, but I cannot say the same thing about Calcutta.

SW: In Calcutta there is not a single track for athletes on which to practise. Have you given thought to this problem?

AB: It is true we have not done much for athletes. However, now that we have decided to take over the Rabindra Sarobar Stadium from the Calcutta Improvement Trust we will have a cinder track there as well as one at the Salt Lake Stadium.

SW: But Salt Lake Stadium is only a distant dream.

AB: Not really, I am sure it will be ready in three to four years' time.

You see, the Government is trying its best but the existing framework is full of corruption If we get the time we would like to do away with those officials who thrive in bias and corruption

SW: Now let us come to the issue of football in the State and especially Calcutta. Would you like to make a comparative assessment of the standard in Calcutta over the years?

JC: Having watched football in Calcutta for more than 30 years I can safely conclude that the standard of football has deteriorated greatly over the years

It is most unfortunate that even "big" clubs have not been above suspicion in certain cases.

SW. Can you pinpoint some reasons for the decline?

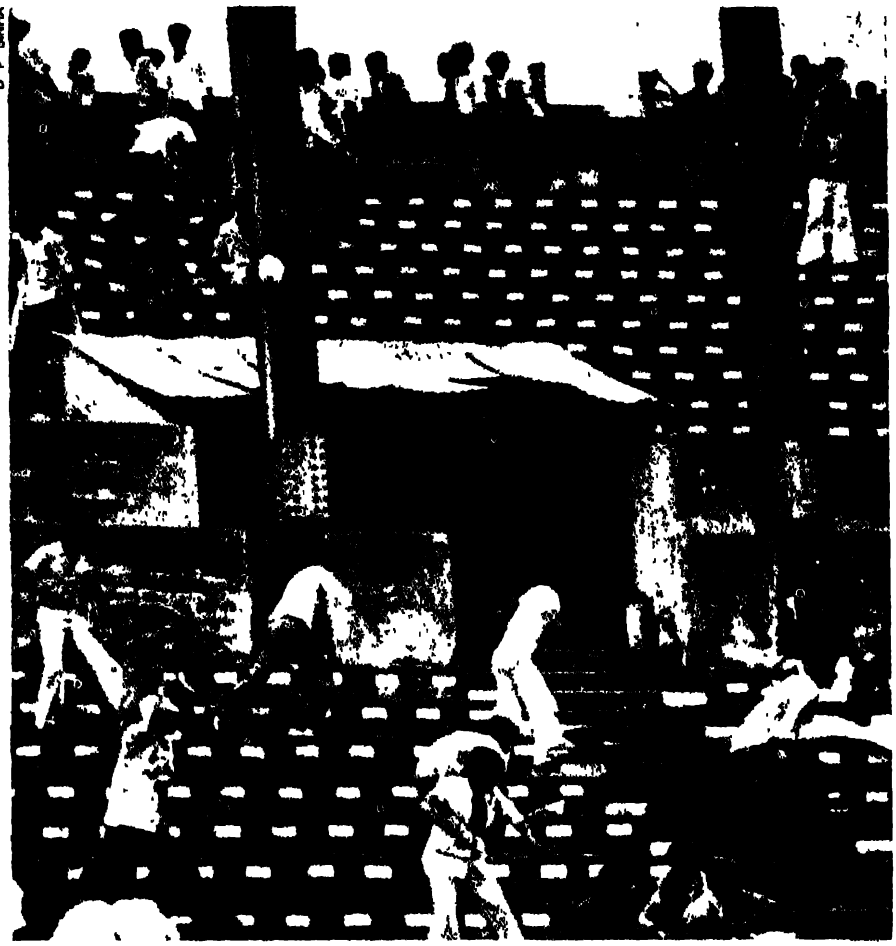
JC: To begin with, there are just too many clubs, not only in the first division but also in the other divisions Only a few clubs devote time for proper practice and training throughout the year Most clubs are interested in big match tickets Then there is the problem of "fixed" matches among the bottom-rankers in an effort to avoid relegation to the lower divisions It is really funny the way these clubs fix matches They do not realise that since at least one team in each division will be relegated every year, no matter how hard they try they are bound to feel the axe sometime or the other Of course they only get temporary respite It is most unfortunate that even the "big" clubs have not been above suspicion in certain cases

SW: Do you think it will be possible to give office tournaments more scope and greater status in order to discourage the business of fixing matches?

JC. Frankly, that is the best solution, as we observe in other States But in Calcutta we have a tradition of club football which obviously we do not want to abolish

SW: Fair enough Well, in that case, if the small teams in the first division have a share in the stands of the enclosed grounds, they may be financially strong enough to ward off corrupt external influences

JC That would be excellent because every club will then have a share of the revenue generated by the popularity of football in Calcutta Unfortunately there are too many constraints to overcome So, for the moment the existing set up cannot be drastically altered However, we will try our best to help the smaller clubs in time to come This year we have provided these clubs with permanent changing-room facilities at the Eden Gardens



The scene of the trouble that took place last year on August 16 when soccer fans were killed and the League and Shield had to be called off

Police promotional prospects lacking

THE Deputy Inspector General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, B. K SAHA, is a familiar face in Calcutta sporting circles. An excellent tennis and table tennis player himself, he keeps a close eye on the Maidan.

SPORTSWORLD: This year the police have done an excellent job at the football grounds. It enabled the spectators to enjoy more space than before. But do you think the police will be able to carry on looking after the entry gates in future?

B. K. SAHA: Thank you In fact, this year we even went to the extent of controlling the members' gates to discourage unauthorised entry You will appreciate this is not a police function at all but in view of the gross mismanagement at the gates by the club and association officials, we had to intervene We were also very strict regarding entry into the actual playing arena At the moment there is just no alternative but to carry on in this fashion

SW: As a good sportsman yourself why don't you strengthen the police teams in Calcutta?

BKS: Here, my hands are tied. We have certain Government formalities regarding recruitment to fulfil. Then again, even promotional prospects in the police force do not take into account the merits of sportsmen, not even international performers The case of Indian hockey goalkeeper Bir Bahadur Chettry is an unfortunate example. Even after representing the victorious Indian team he could not be considered for promotion because there was no such provision in our rules In this way we will never be able to attract talented sportsmen to our ranks I quite agree that a strong sports image will give a boost to police morale. Actually, years back, the police teams won laurels in various games, including one IFA Shield victory sometime in the Forties At that time some excellent sportsmen, mainly Anglo-Indians, brought credit to the force But unfortunately that is a thing of the past

Lord of the Meadows

Two months after the excitement of Wimbledon, the leading stars on the professional tennis circuit converged on Flushing Meadows, the venue for the US Open Championships. The scene was set for yet another classic confrontation between Wimbledon champion John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg, the man whom he dethroned earlier this year at the All-England Club. McEnroe was on the lookout for his third successive US Open title; Borg for the one honour that has eluded him throughout his brilliant career. GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on the tournament

BJORN BORG was only 16 when he made his debut at the US Open in 1972 He was out at Forest Hills playing against an all-time great Roy Emerson, who had won the title in 1961 and 1964 It was the latter's farewell game At the sidelines knelt a 13-year-old ballboy serving the two masters of the past and the future His name was John McEnroe

On September 13 the same lad—now a man—sent away his one-time master without the title which he has coveted for the past ten years For the second consecutive time John McEnroe had beaten Bjorn Borg in the final of the US Open

That makes it seven victories each between the two legends of modern tennis Two titles at this US Open assured McEnroe of the No 1 ranking in singles and doubles for the rest of the year. However, he has yet to prove his skill on the clay surface or at the French Open Never mind He has proved beyond doubt that he is the only player today, who is capable of taming the cold tennis machine called Bjorn Borg

The final at Flushing Meadows was a disappointment Not just for Bjorn Borg, but for the connoisseurs of tennis as well. There was something missing in Borg's game What was it? He was not there to explain at the post-match Press conference. Even before he was awarded the runner-up prize, he was escorted by a bunch of security men through the back door Some of the crowd thought that he had left as a sour loser, skipping the award ceremony and the Press conference, but in actual fact he had received a second death threat while playing the match and there was no point in taking any chances

The day of the final belonged to John McEnroe. Borg was certainly under pressure. It was his fourth final at the US Open This one title, which is considered to be the second highest honour of tennis, has denied him the title of all-time great in spite of five consecutive Wimbledon and six French titles



Borg won the first set by breaking McEnroe in the seventh game and he went on to take the set 6-4. In the second set McEnroe broke him right away to lead 3-0, then he moved to 5-2 Borg serving at 30-0, committed a double fault and then one more to lose the set at 2-6

By then McEnroe was in command He served with guile and variation. He charged to the net as often as he could Still, Borg led 4-3 in the third set and served for a 5-3 lead. Suddenly the complexion of the whole match changed as McEnroe broke him and went on to win the next two games. Two backhands and a superb lob won him the crucial game. "That's one of the best games I have ever played on someone else's serve," he would recall later

Borg looked completely lost in the fourth set. He lost his serve at 15 in the fourth game to concede a 3-1 lead to McEnroe. The maestro broke back in the next game but then the fire was gone McEnroe broke back once again in the following game. As Borg served at 2-5 he gave



Tracy Austin regained her title with a spectacular win in the final

The brat is brilliant



THE shadow of John Patrick McEnroe looms larger than ever at Flushing Meadows. With his third straight title, even the most hard-boiled McEnroe critic would be hard-pressed to deny the fact that the man is a genius. Agreed, the first seeded player McEnroe met was Gerulaitis (no. 15) in the semi-finals. Agreed, Borg does not like playing under lights (besides, he is probably psyched at the Meadows anyway). Agreed, McEnroe is a brat.

But the brat is brilliant. No doubt about that. He has the Wimbledon title under his belt, has added the US Open title to his haul and will—if he takes part at Kooyong—be hungry for yet another in the Australian Open. He has not won the Grand Slam yet, but he has plenty of time in which to do so and it is quite conceivable that Junior will be able to do what Borg has still been unable to.

Consider the facts. McEnroe won the singles at Wimbledon, beating Borg. McEnroe and Fleming won the doubles at Wimbledon. McEnroe won the singles at Flushing Meadows, beating Borg. McEnroe and Fleming took the doubles at Flushing Meadows. That he is the most talented player on the professional circuit today cannot be denied.

Bjorn Borg, the player who dominated half a decade of tennis, has always preferred to concentrate on singles alone, ignoring doubles altogether. The reason is simple: by focussing his sights on singles, he hopes to play better tennis. And, as his record shows, that tactic has paid rich dividends. But McEnroe follows no such principles, playing doubles and singles with the same dedication and fierce competitive spirit. (While members of the Press waited for an interview with him at Wimbledon, he was playing a men's doubles quarter-final with Fleming.)

The McEnroe-Borg encounter record is now level. McEnroe trailed by two matches before the Wimbledon final, but he has since made amends. Adequately.

McEnroe two championship points but recovered with a stunning forehand passing shot and an ace The crowd cheered wildly as he won the game, with eager expectation of another display of Borg magic But this was not to be McEnroe held his serve in spite of committing a double fault in the beginning, then he took the next four points and Borg sent the last serve over the baseline to make it 15-40 The final score read 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 in favour of John McEnroe Jr.

There were no tiebreakers and though Borg showed flashes of his brilliance occasionally he nevertheless looked hesitant and subdued. McEnroe thinks that it was the cause of too much pressure "It seemed like he kind of let up and got careless after the first set I don't think he was really sure what he wanted to do He just seemed kind of tentative after the first set," he said

In fact, it seemed like Borg's day when he played Connors the day before He played superlative tennis to overcome Jimmy Connors in the semi-final, yet another Wimbledon replay It was an awesome display of power and skill on the part of Bjorn Borg The 6-2, 7 5, 6-4 score is an unfair indication of Connors' performance He played his usual fiery brand of tennis with total dedication and determination But things just did not happen the way he wanted. Seldom has Bjorn Borg

served like this. He served 15 aces in all, most of them over 100 miles per hour.

They were meeting at the US Open after a lapse of three years and in their three previous encounters at this tournament. Connors had won each time. Connors was broken in the very first game of the match and Borg went on to break again to take the set 6-2. In the second set, Connors led 4-1 with one break. In the sixth game, Borg served at 0-40 but bounced back to win the game. Two aces and a service winner did the trick He served out four break points in that game, which proved to be the turning point of the match Borg got a break in the seventh game and another one in the ninth. Once that set was lost, Jimmy Connors just could not recover. "The main thing was that he outserved me," he said later "I should not have lost that set."

At 3-3 in the next set, Jimmy Connors committed a double fault while serving but levelled at 30-30 A bad call against him made it deuce, yet he won the game As Borg served at 3-4 Connors had an advantage but Borg forced another deuce and won the game. Again at 4-4 Connors offered his rival a double break point which he gratefully accepted Borg held serve to make it 6-4 "It has been a very long time since I served this well," Borg said after the match According to him, the last time he served so well was at the Wimbledon final of 1980.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA shared a heartbreak day with Jimmy Connors She had reached the finals of the US Open for the first time in her career, a feat that meant something special to her, as she had become an American citizen two months previously Before the tournament, the two-time Wimbledon champion was not expected to make the final Everyone was talking about a Lloyd-Austin final. Suddenly she pulled off the biggest upset of the tournament by conquering the reigning champion with a splendid display of power, speed and skill She trailed 2-4 in the final set after splitting the first two with Chris, but simply grabbed the next four games with strong nerves and her favourite cannon volleys "Since the last time I won Wimbledon I've never been this excited," she said "Butterflies were in my stomach I felt like this was the final."

It was not And that is probably what went wrong, as she would admit at the award ceremony the following day She swept through the first set against Austin 6-1 making her opponent look like a battered child Anyone else perhaps would have buckled under such pressure. The crowd was with Martina Still, Tracy went about her business in her calm and cool manner, playing her baseline game and serving better than before Marty Reisen's coaching seems to have improved her serve and she even served a couple of aces although, of course, she was not par with the 90-mile per hour serves of her stronger opponent.

In the second set, at 4-4, Martina had two break points for the set However, Tracy held serve and won the game Probably it was at this point that Martina Navratilova let the younger girl off the hook. In the next game, Martina's eighth double fault of the match gave Tracy a break point, but the former forced the deuce and advantage to win In the next game Tracy served with the advantage four times before eventually winning it

Martina served the last game, double-faulted to give Tracy a set-point lead, forced the deuce and won it That led to the tiebreaker which Tracy took 7-4

In the final set, they tied at 5-5 At this crucial juncture came Martina's eleventh and twelfth double faults, giving Tracy a 6-5 lead But immediately she forced Tracy from 30-0 to deuce, breaking back to make it 6-6 Ironically, at the end of the tiebreaker she served her thirteenth double fault to give Austin a 7-1 lead and the championship This was the first time that a US Open final has been decided on a tiebreaker

At the presentation ceremony the

Fourth seed Jimmy Connors displays his glee after beating Andres Gomez





Ramesh Krishnan in action against Stan Smith whom he defeated in straight sets

crowd cheered Martina for five full minutes She broke down and cried openly at that unexpected expression of love, then she smiled through her tears and then she laughed "It took me eight years to get to the final," she said with her usual wit "I just hope it doesn't take me another eight years to win this thing" And the crowd cheered all the more

Tracy Austin was emotional too "This means more to me than the last one," she said "At 16, it all came so fast It was kind of like the next stepping stone I had come on to the women's tour and gradually gotten better and better I was too young to realise how important it was"

Another person who wanted to win very badly was a new, motivated Vitas Gerulaitis After his tense match against Ivan Lendl, he sent a flying kiss to the crowd and shouted "I love you" For him it was a homecoming, some sort of a rebirth "The boy is back," he exclaimed as he looked at the cheering crowds Fred Stolle, his coach, seems to have injected something new into him—the will to win

In his semi-final match against McEnroe, he was really unlucky He won the first set 7 5 by using the only break of the set McEnroe survived ten double faults in the match and nine break points in the fifth set Even in the second, third and fourth games, he squandered far too many break points A couple of times the wind played havoc with his luck His second serves were too weak and his return of serve too high He returned better in the fourth set and became more aggressive as he had in the match against Lendl, but nothing seemed to go his way

In the fifth set he was playing well and serving for 2 2 when McEnroe started an argument with the referee and hit the CBS microphone with his racket in anger The strings broke and play was held up It certainly distracted Gerulaitis, who lost the game, but at 4-2 he had two break points against McEnroe However, after a couple of deuces more, the defending champion made it 5-2 for himself and wrapped up the match

THE biggest scare for John McEnroe came from Ramesh Krishnan in the quarter-final McEnroe lost the first set on a double fault In the second set, McEnroe broke Ramesh's first service game and led 3-0, but the world no 101 fought back even as he trailed 1-4 and broke the champ in the seventh game to level at 4-4, giving away only two points in the process The set went to the tiebreaker and at 4-4 McEnroe came alive to score three points to even out

McEnroe broke in the ninth game of the third set and the fifth and seventh games of the fourth to progress into the next round. "You should never take anyone lightly," McEnroe said later. "But I did a little today." Ramesh felt that he had his best chance as he served for the second set at 5-4, but at 30-30 he mishit a drop shot by a couple of inches into the net and that was it

McEnroe yelled and screamed throughout the match "He is serving at ten miles per hour," he moaned. "Come on", he yelled at Ramesh "Shucks, you break my legs," he groaned at another moment He turned to one of the Indian fans and screamed, "Shut up or I'll stuff the ball down your throat" That was the only unpleasant episode of the whole match "He played his game and I did not play mine," McEnroe admitted later "He only serves at 10 miles an hour," he added "He would just get his first serve in and then go for a winner"

Chris Lloyd punches a backhand



It was an unusual brand of tennis on the fast Deco-turf Ramesh played a solid baseline game, forcing McEnroe into long rallies with soft balls The crowd enjoyed every minute of McEnroe's misery and rooted for Ramesh It is no exaggeration to say that until McEnroe broke him at 4 4 and 40 0, in the third set, he called the shots against the no 1 player in the world With a little more luck, Ramesh Krishnan could have pulled off the greatest upset of the decade

There were 128 men and 128 women in this tournament Some of them disappointed the fans Ivan Lendl, Jose Luis Clerc, Hana Mandlikova and Andrea Jaeger were the most outstanding losers Hana had protested her no 5 seeding, which was done strictly on the basis of the computer ranking When Wimbledon seeded her no 2, disregarding the computer ranking, she had been the centre of another controversy Bruce Manson and Ramesh Krishnan provided pleasant surprises Andres Gomez and Juan Nunez too provided some thrills, but most of the improved players and fresh talents came from the women's section Barbara Potter has emerged as the most improved player of the year at age 19 Andrea Leand, Barbara Gerken and Kathy Horvath have already lined up as the second generation Young Kathy Rinaldi showed her skills in the doubles and mixed doubles, as also up-and-coming 19-year old Bettina Bunge

When Andrea Jaeger recovers from her shoulder injury, the women's circuit is going to light up It was dull tennis till the semi-finals in the women's section, but from then on it was electrifying Only Victor Pecci, "Blazer" Taroczy, Gianni Ocleppo and Eddie Dibbs were missing from the top men pros Billie Jean King and Evonne Goolagong were certainly missed in the women's division

They will all be back next year John McEnroe says he will be too So will the house-full crowds at Flushing Meadows Maybe Bjorn Borg too


TRACY AUSTIN

U. S. Open daily diary

GEORGE K. GEORGE

Day 1

THE first day of September. The opening match in the stadium is 54 minutes late due to rain. The first game features Chris Evert Lloyd's husband John and her former fiance, the first meeting between the two men since Chris broke up with Connors. Ranked only 227th in the world, John Lloyd is a wild card entry to the tournament. Chris watches from a seat high in the stands as Connors races to a 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 win.

John McEnroe has to sweat for four hours and 34 minutes against the world's no. 193, Juan Nunez of Chile. The defending champion loses the first set in a tie-breaker 6-8. The 6'2" 180 pound Chilean has all the crowd support possible. McEnroe earns two warnings, one for delaying tactics and the other for bad conduct.

Stan Smith, the former champion, stages a classic come from behind win after trailing by two sets and three match points against John Sadri for a 5-7, 6-7 (2-7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) result. The match which begins at 1.20 pm, ends at 8.10 with two rain delays in between. It is certainly the best match of the day featuring some crisp and tenacious tennis.

Elliot Teltscher disposes of Victor Amaya and Brian Teacher (the eighth seed) knocks out Bill Scanlon. The only upset in the men's section is caused by Kevin Curren who edges out Wojtek Fibak (14) in straight sets. Ramesh Krishnan scores a convincing win over Per Hjertquist of Sweden, who manages only five games against the young Indian star.

There are some surprises in the women's section. Anne Smith removes Dianne Fromholtz (16) and Rosie Casals surprises Regina Marsikova of Czechoslovakia in straight sets. Hana Mandlikova survives a shaky round against former Wimbledon junior champion Mary Lou Piatek. Mary Lou wins the first set on a tie breaker and serves with match point in the second, but Hana saves three match points to level the score. She is down by two games in the third set before rallying to win 6-3.

Day 2

THIS day Bjorn Borg makes an appearance on a tennis court after seven weeks of seclusion. His innocent victim is Marcus Gunthardt of Switzerland. Borg blesses him with two games in each of the first two sets and then sweeps the third.

The other leading men, Vilas, Mayer, Gerulaitis and unseeded Mel Purcell march ahead. Purcell's encounter with Ilie Nastase provides comic relief in an otherwise dull day of tennis. Nastase amazes everyone with some superb tennis. He takes the first, loses the next two, but takes the fourth. He gives the ballboys a helping hand and does an acrobatics number on the net. There are still flashes of his brilliance in evidence. The desire to win, however, is missing. By the fifth set he runs out of gas and Purcell takes it 6-3.

Chris Evert, Andrea Jaeger and Martina Navratilova have easy victories over their unknown rivals. Their opponents collect a total of only four games. Martina looks convincing and formidable in her 45-minute sweep of Australia's Nerida Gregory. Andrea shows no signs oh forced her out of the Canadian Open a few days previously.

There is one notable upset. Fourteen-year-old Kathy Rinaldi, the youngest pro, who created a sensation at the French Open, is beaten by 16-year old Kathy Horvath 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. The pressure on the younger girl proves too great. The media has built her up as a superstar, failing to realise that she is not yet one.

Day 3

THE battle between John McEnroe and the shotgun microphones of the CBS television network continues. Is it that Tom Gullikson brings out the worst in McEnroe? It was during his match against Gullikson at Wimbledon that McEnroe broke his racket and abused the referee.

McEnroe comes to the court only three hours after the Men's International Professional Tennis Council's announcement regarding a total of $7250 in fines for his Wimbledon behaviour. McEnroe probably takes it out on Gullikson, humiliating him in straight sets.

Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, Yannick Noah of France and Johan Kriek of South Africa are the other seeds to move along. The upset of the day is the four set defeat suffered by promising Brian Teacher at the hands of Marty Davis of California no. 127 in the world rankings.

The surprise of the day comes from Ramesh Krishnan, who knocks out Stan Smith in straight sets. Years ago his father Ramanathan Krishnan had done the same to Smith when he was 17. Now at 34, he has no answer to the angled passing shots and clever change of pace generated by his 20-year old apponent.

Day 4

A DAY of many familiar faces with broad smiles. The winners include Borg, Vilas, Kriek, Purcell, Noah, Panatta, Clerc, Gene Mayer, Solomon Peter McNamara, Tanner, Connors, Teltscher and Vijay Amritraj. Vilas accounts for Ramirez, Teltscher pre-

Borg at full st... against Aust ...lia's David Carter



vails over Tracy's brother John Austin and Vijay beats Giles Moretton of France. McNamara's victim is McEnroe's doubles partner Peter Fleming. The victory of Andres Gomez of Ecuador over New Zealand's promising Chris Lewis is also noteworthy Jose Luis Clerc almost loses to Tim Wilkison in a 4-hour, 20-minute five setter.

But the real shock of the day is the defeat of No 2 seed Andrea Jaeger who is removed by Andrea Leand a 17-year old amateur from Baltimore and a wild card entry to the tournament A couple of disputed calls disrupt her concentration and the shoulder injury suffered at Toronto seems too much for Jaeger

The other upset of the day is the three-set loss of tenth seeded Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia, to Kathy Horvath and of Sue Barker (15th seed) to Sharon Walsh But the caravan that moves on includes Tracy Austin, Hana Mandlikova, Chris Evert Lloyd, Martina Navratilova, Pam Shriver, Kathy Jordan, Virginia Ruzici, Wendy Turnbull and Sylvia Hanika

Day 5

TROUBLE Jose Luis Clerc is scheduled to play the tough young man from Kentucky, Mel Purcell The match is slated for 11 am Clerc protests against the schedule, saying that he needs some rest But the tournament committee refuses to postpone the match Clerc eventually plays in the morning, the result being 6-3, 0-6, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3 in his favour Purcell leads 4-3 in the fourth set with a break point in hand, but the "rookie of the year" on the pro tour of 1980 lets Clerc off the hook and squanders the chance of making the last 16 of the national tournament

John McEnroe beats Pat Dupre in straight sets before blasting the CBS reporter at the post-match interview The provocation comes from the reporter who questions him about the controversy over the shotgun microphones at the net McEnroe declares that he will never grant another interview to the reporter involved

There are a few upsets Unseeded Bruce Manson of Texas eliminates Peter McNamara, seed No 11, in a four-setter Duk Hee Lee of Korea beats ninth seeded Virginia Ruzici and Gerulaitis disposes of Harold Solomon Meanwhile, Ivan Lendl and Gene Mayer are among the other well known winners of this first Saturday of September

From India's point of view, Ramesh Krishnan's win over Marty Davis of California is impressive The final score reads 6-2, 7-5, 6-7, 6-4 The third round win by Ramesh gives India two berths in the fourth round, certainly an impressive position, considering the opposition in this tournament

Day 6

The most exciting match of the tournament lasts four hours and 23 minutes On one side of the net is 29-year-old Jimmy Connors, on the other a 20-year old Ecuadorean, Andres Gomez The former champion comes very close to a scorching Gomez, No 50 in the ATP rankings, is basically a clay court player The final score is 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-1, 4-6 7-6 (7-5)

No 189 Mike Cahill eliminates Johan Kriek the No 12 seed, in four sets Guillermo Vilas also scores a four-set win over Adriano Panatta of Italy Roscoe Tanner defeats Chris Mayotte and Brian Gottfried sends home Chris's younger brother Tim Borg has another easy win, this time over Australia's David Carter

Vijay Amritraj is knocked out of the tournament by Elliot Teltscher of Sebring, Florida The No 8 seed does not meet much resistance from the Indian champion and registers an easy 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 win

There is an upset in the women's competition Barbara Gerkin, the unseeded 17-year old from California defeats Wendy Turnbull of Australia 7-5, 6-3 Andrea Leand, who knocked out Andrea Jaeger, proceeds to the last sixteen by beating Julie Harrington Rosemary Casals joins her, earning the right to meet Tracy Austin in the pre-quarter finals

Day 7

The star of the day is undoubtedly local boy Vitas Gerulaitis. He toils for 3 hours and 27 minutes to remove Ivan Lendl who had earned the third seeding ahead of Jimmy Connors

But the real shocker came later Unseeded Bruce Manson of Fort Worth, Texas, grounds Jose Luis Clerc of Argentina Clerc, who reigned supreme this summer, runs out of gas after the two long duels he had fought earlier The score is an incredible 6-3, 7-6, 6-3

Pam Shriver, the No 8 seed is humiliated by up-and coming Anne Smith in straight sets Not too many people are sorry for Pam who recently created a sensation by showering profanities on Tracy Austin after her loss in the Canadian Open

The other surprise of the day is provided by India's very own Ramesh Krishnan In a late evening match Ramesh loses the first two sets against Gene Mayer 4-6, 1-6 and then takes the next two at 7-6 and 7-5 At this point Mayer retires due to cramps, depriving Ramesh of the complete thrill of an upset Still, it is a great achievement to move into the quarter finals of the US Open, beating the No 7 seed

Tracy Austin, Sylvia Hanika, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert Lloyd, Hana Mandlikova, Barbara Gerkin and Barbara Potter march into the quarter finals Tracy beats veteran Rosie Casals who had claimed that she was undergoing a reincarnation at 33 Barbara Potter puts an end to Andrea Leand's winning streak after a close match Bettina Bunge, the No 12 seed, plays well initially against Chris Evert, but gradually fades out as the reigning champion takes full control

Johan Kriek of South Africa stretches for a forehand against Mike Depalmer

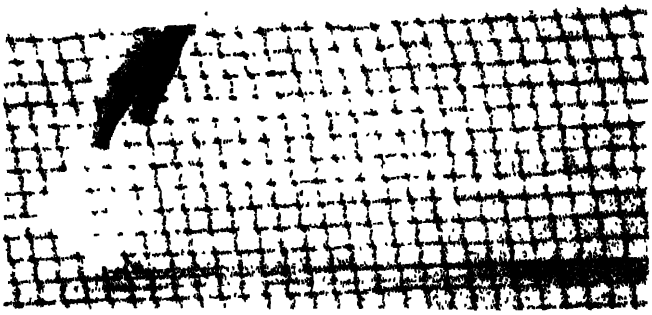


The leading stars at Flushing Meadows

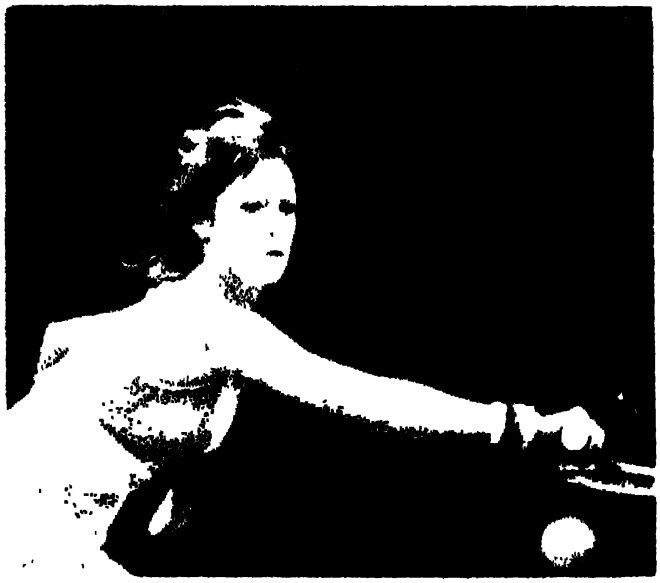












Clockwise from top left: 1 Peter Fleming and partner John M. Lence put on an act for the benefit of the cameramen after they had received their trophies for the men's doubles. With this victory McEnroe notched up a double in the tradition of his Wimbledon victories earlier this year. 2 Virginia Wade stretches for a backhand volley to pull out of trouble at the net. 3 The colourful Vitas Gerulaitis displaying a new verve played with zest at this year's tournament. The New Yorker hailed once upon a time as a world-beater erased memories of several disappointments in the past with a fiery semi-final against McEnroe. 4 Gene Mayer who conceded his match against Ramesh Krishnan after the Indian had fought him point for point. 5 Guillermo Vilas the poet of the Pampas bowed out early. 6 Jimmy Connors played inspired tennis as usual but lost to Borg in the semis. 7 Chris Lloyd was upset by Navratilova. 8 A tense moment during the Borg-Tanner encounter.

A TI



Roscoe Tanner gave Borg a few anxious moments



Hana Mandlikova searching for championship form

Day 8

THE million dollar question of the day revolves around Hana Mandlikova's ability to beat Chris Evert Lloyd A number of people have their money on the young Czech, but it is not to be She is routed in straight sets 6-1, 6 3 This was Evert's eleventh consecutive entry into the semi finals of the US Open

Bjorn Borg, who had trounced Yannick Noah of France last year in the fourth round, beats him in a five setter Noah takes the first set on a tie-breaker and plays a fairly good match though he cannot counter Borg Roscoe Tanner and Guillermo Vilas create a US Open record for the longest tie breaker in their fourth set, stretching it to 16 14 Tanner, one of the most powerful servers of the game, prevails against the Argentinean poet Jimmy Connors has no problem in giving a lesson to Mike Cahill in straight sets

Day 9

JOHN McENROE is taught a few lessons in humility and the art of classical tennis by a young man from India Ramesh Krishnan shocks the spectators as leaves McEnroe and bewilder[illegible] with a superb display of [illegible] for three hours and 27 minutes before losing in four sets

[illegible] prevails over Giant [illegible] Borg Marsoa in another four [illegible] The young left hander is too [illegible] for the giant [illegible] Steve Gerken [illegible] Victor Amaya [illegible] Peter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] West Germany Barbara Potter scores a straight-set victory over another superb youngster, Barbara Gerken John Newcombe and Fred Stolle move to the semi finals of the men's doubles through a five-set battle against Mike Cahill and Tom Gullikson

Day 10

BJORN BORG is pushed to a tie-breaker in the third set against Tanner after losing the second But Roscoe Tanner's bullet serves do not deter the Swede from making a semi-final date with Jimmy Connors The latter takes a straight sets win against Elliot Teltscher, but the second set takes 43 minutes, with the first game going to 15 minutes with eight deuces

The thriller of the day comes from two "old men" from Australia, John Newcombe (37) and Fred Stolle (42) who shake up Wimbledon champions John McEnroe and Peter Fleming in a 2 6, 2 6, 7 5 (7 2), 6-7 (3 7) encounter which lasts three hours and 18 minutes Then follows the funniest post-match Press conference one could ever hope to attend

Day 11

THE biggest upset of the 1981 US Open takes place as Chris Evert Lloyd is shocked by Martina Navratilova in three sets Chris who was expected to reach the final and play Austin for the title, goes out as the crowd looks on in stunned silence

Barbara Porter has few answers to the puzzles offered by Tracy Austin Tracy lets her have four games as a memento of her first ever US Open semi

This morning Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland wakes up with a severe attack of flu He cannot team up with Peter McNamara for the men's doubles finals McEnroe and Fleming win by default Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith take their sweet revenge against Martina by disposing of her and her partner Pam Shriver

Day 12

THE women's final turns out to be a one-sided affair as Martina Navratilova whips Tracy Austin 6-1 in the first set But the tide changes and Tracy takes the next two sets on tie-breakers to regain her title

Vitas Gerulaitis is certainly unlucky to lose to John McEnroe after winning the first set Jimmy Connors plays superlative tennis once again, but everything goes right for Bjorn Borg

Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver are stunned in the women's doubles semi-finals by Rosemary Cassals and Wendy Turnbull Zina Garrison of Texas prevails over Kate Gompert in the junior girl's final

Day 13

A REPLAY of Wimbledon 1981 and the US Open 1980 The only difference is Borg's inability to force the pace McEnroe scores a hat trick with his third successive win here

Anne Smith and Kathy Jordan score a straight sets victory over veterans Rosie Cassals and Wendy Turnbull Anne Smith also teams up with Kevin Curren of South Africa to win the mixed doubles against Joanne Russell and Steve Denton

Thomas Hoegstedt of Sweden beats Hans Schwaier of W[illegible] Germany to claim the junior boys title

Czechoslovakia's pride

AUSHIM KHETRAPAL and SARAJIT DEB profile Ivan Lendl

"I HAVE always wanted to reach the top Hovering around midway serves no real purpose and anyway it would irritate me". So said Ivan Lendl

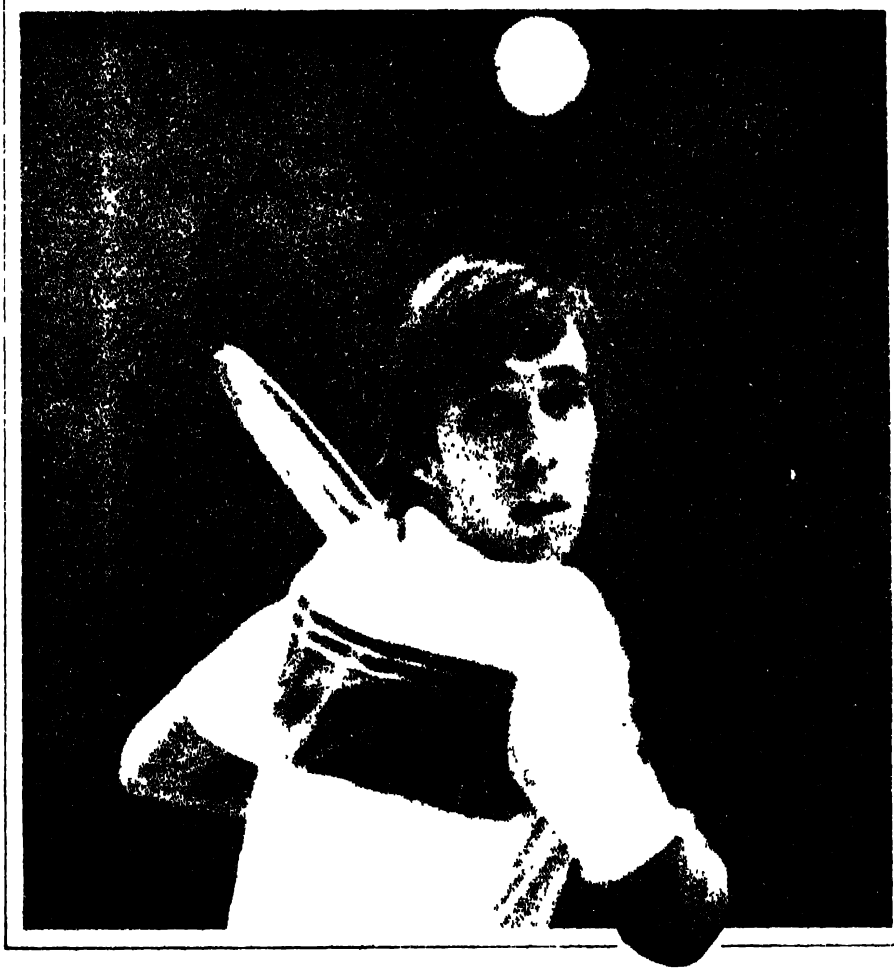
He has certainly been working towards his ambition of reaching the top No other man—or woman—on the professional tennis circuit plays as many tournaments as this Czech star Tennis is his life, his everything It dominates his every movement The quest for perfection goes on regardless

The year 1981 has not been a very good one for Lendl Despite successes on the lesser tournaments on the pro circuit, he has come off second best in the three Grand Slam constituents played so far His loss to Borg in the final of the French Open was followed by his first round upset at Wimbledon at the hands of unknown Charlie Fancutt and finally his hopes in the US Open were shattered by fifteenth seed Vitas Gerulaitis

Not since Jaroslav Drobny has Czechoslovakia produced a male tennis star of similar standing Navratilova brought her country glory but she chose to defect and the arrival on the scene of Hana Mandlikova and Ivan Lendl is surely the first step in the birth of a new generation of East European superstars Lendl led his country to a first-ever Davis Cup victory last year but even in this sphere, there was only disappointment this year as Czechoslovakia bowed out to one of the strongest US teams in recent history, despite Lendl's victory over Wimbledon champion John McEnroe

Lendl was born into a family of tennis lovers His mother Olga was once ranked third among the country's women tennis players His father, a lawyer by profession, is also a keen tennis player Thus it was not surprising that Ivan was first introduced to the game when other children are learning to cope with numbers and the alphabet. At the age of four, Lendl junior learnt to swing a racket Participation in tournaments began when he was eight and he began bringing titles home within a year

He did not have to wait for long before he achieved his ambition of winning the Orange Bowl In 1978 he ousted favourite and top seed Yannick Noah of the French Cameroons, earning the distinction of the world's top-ranked junior tennis player "How exuberant I was. The world number one junior at seventeen " Determined and fiercely ambitious, Lendl made it to the top twenty on the ATP computer the following year He had not reached a single final, but he took home $77,401 all the same His ferocious forehand and his tigerish spirit on the court drew praise from even the most hard-boiled critic As his list of scalps grew more impressive so his fame spread Lendl became known as a "dangerous floater" and his performance in 1980 held great hope Yet he was modest about his achievements. "I've never really watched my forehand Everyone says it is good, but it all comes naturally to me. It's an aggressive shot but I believe in the credo that aggression is what the game is all about "



OSTRAVA, 170 miles east of Prague, has as its chief claim to fame the fact that it is an up-and-coming industrial city Now, however, it can add to that the fact that it is the birthplace of Ivan Lendl The Czech number one learnt the game there and his parents, who encouraged him every inch of the way, made no allowances for his behaviour nevertheless Outbursts on the court were frowned upon and often punished severely as his parents helped mould the young lad into a future champion who would be able to control his temper on court Lendl may not exactly be a paragon of virtue, but he is certainly an improvement on players like McEnroe and Buehning

About a year ago sportswriters predicted that Lendl would soon make the world's top ten grade Then when Bjorn Borg was asked later in the year to name the most promising player on the circuit, he named three or four youngsters, but singled out Lendl for special praise

Lendl worked hard to make Borg's assessment come true In the second half of 1980, he finally made the top ten grade on the ATP list and by December he was at the number six spot The Lendl success story really began in 1978 when he won several laurels on the international junior circuit After a string of successes he was finally included in the Czech national team to play Britain in a Davis Cup match Lendl lost his tie but came in for plenty of praise nevertheless

But there was a notable Davis Cup success in the offing for Lendl Czechoslovakia had reached their first final in 1975 when they lost 2-3 to Sweden, but in 1980 Lendl and Smid made no mistake in disposing of the Italians, Lendl winning both his singles games as well as the doubles in partnership with Smid Earlier they had caused a sensation by beating Argentina in the semi-finals an unexpected victory, to say the least Lendl had set the ball rolling beating Guillermo Vilas 7-5, 8-6, 9-7 Then he and Smid beat Vilas and Clerc and finally Lendl beat Clerc to round off an incredible victory

Truly then, a new superstar had arrived



C. D. FRANCIS

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Profile

Homesick soccer star

SARAJIT DEB profiles C. D. Francis

"IT was a bad mistake on my part I really feel sorry that I left the Asiad coaching camp during that controversial period Perhaps, if I had remained, I would have been in the Indian team that has gone to Merdeka It was a single mistake which could change the course of my career in many ways," said C D Francis From the way he spoke, it seemed he was really sorry for the mistake and has still not forgiven himself

Challessery Vallappila Devassy Francis popularly known as just "CD" was involved in a great deal of controversy even before he started playing in Calcutta for his new club, East Bengal Judging by his performance at the 1st Nationals for Kerala and other tournaments for Premier Tyres, he was selected for the first phase of the Asiad coaching camp at Salt Lake Suddenly the football fraternity of the country was rocked when 21 probables left the camp of their own volition Nineteen of them were from Bengal, C D being one of the two "outsiders" The other was Fareed and both of them were later to join East Bengal

"In 1979 when Xavier Pius (Mohun Bagan) Premnath Philip, Md Najeeb and Dinakar (all to Mohammedan Sporting) left Premier Tyres, I was also given an offer to join the black and whites But there were family problems and so I could not make it that year This year while I was at the Salt Lake, East Bengal officials approached me with an offer to join them Premnath encouraged me and it was mainly because of him that I decided to join East Bengal So I left the camp because I wanted to play in Calcutta," CD recounted

Soon after that he was involved in a major controversy He was suspended by his then home State (Kerala) association for leaving the camp without their permission Following a plea by his new club to the all India body and the Kerala Football Association, there was still some doubt about his eligibility to play for East Bengal There was a difference of opinion among the president and the secretary of the KFA one agreeing to allow him to play, the other seeing no reason why he should be allowed But all that was sorted out and C D Francis started appearing for his side first in the Statford Cup at Bangalore, the Federation Cup at Madras and finally in the Calcutta League

"It was a completely new experience for me here at Calcutta In Kerala, the altitude is much lower, so I had some initial breathing trouble But with the passage of time, I've got used to it Food was another problem which I overcame in time But the most important thing was the behaviour of the crowd I had some knowledge of it when I took part in the 1977 Nationals here in Calcutta, but I soon came to know them better They are an absolutely crazy lot Football is everything for them They are ready to treat you like a hero if you play well but you must be prepared for anything if you do not perform according to expectations"

C D Francis had quite a good start to this season with his new club First he helped them to finish joint-winners with Mohammedan Sporting in the Statford Cup, and though the team fared badly in the Federation Cup, losing to both Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan, CD performed quite well and was a constant danger to his opponents' defence with his speed In the Calcutta League he also started well and was the first player to register a hat trick in the League this season "I naturally felt happy after I got the hat trick But I must give credit to all other players in the team—they helped me to achieve it," he said with a smile



Altogether, it was not a bad League, personally, for C D Francis "I do not think I made a mistake by coming to play in Calcutta I'm satisfied with my performance I think I have played better this year than I normally do There is a different approach to the game here, it is more serious, the tension is greater and here the stress is on individual displays"

THE last among nine brothers and sisters, CD was born on March 28, 1955 at Trichur, Kerala His has been a football family, his father having played football during his time and his elder brother having represented Madras University He himself received all the encouragement needed. He started playing from a very tender age and continued doing so when he first joined St Thomas and then switched over to St Aloysius schools, both at Trichur He represented his school in the inter school tournaments and then went on to represent Kerala in the junior Nationals He was the vice-captain of the team in 1972 when the championships was held at Krishnanagar and which they won The same year also saw his entry into first division soccer in Kerala for Fertilisation and Chemicals, Travancore (FSAST) He was with them for two years before joining Premier Tyres In 1974, he was also the captain of the junior State team

Francis made his entry into the national scene during the Patna Nationals in 1976 He was a regular in the Kerala team till the last Nationals "The Calcutta Nationals was the best, especially the semi finals against Punjab Though we lost, it was a memorable match, an encounter that I'll remember for a long time" CD recollected Though Francis has been called for the Indian selection camps, he has never made it to the actual team "That is my present goal—representing India," Francis added thoughtfully

Married with one daughter, CD admits that sometimes he feels lonely and longs to go back home I've never been away from home for so long Still, I want to play in Calcutta for some time, but I will never settle here permanently We have a business in Kerala and only one brother is looking after that I want to go back after my playing days and help him.

Francis is employed with Bengal Immunity, but it is a far cry from the job he had at Premier Tyres as Factory Assistant "They gave me a lot of encouragement but the Kerala Football Association hardly gave me any facilities for the service I rendered over the last five six years"

CD is serious about his practice and attends sessions regularly "Unless you do that, how can you play well?" After the practice sessions he goes to his office and from there to the mess to rest During his free time, this speedy and thrustful striker, who can also play equally well on the wings, reads novels sports magazines and sometimes goes out to see movies



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Sportsworld Exclusive

Don't underestimate the Gnome

TONY LEWIS assesses Keith Fletcher

ALTHOUGH born in Worcester, 37 years ago, Keith Fletcher has the slow, drawling good sense and humour of the East Anglian He is known from Royston Golf Club to Butlins at Clacton as "Ole Fletch", very much the son of the soil, gun crooked under his arm, the gardener, the fisherman, the lover of nature. Cricketers call him "Gnome".

He walks to the wicket quite famously, and most deceptively, as the small boy called to the front of the class, meandering a little because he only looks at the ground At the crease, his stance is earnest He leans strongly on the bat His defence embodies all the insurances—front pad thrust alongside the bat which is steeply sloped The back foot shuffles across behind,the forward defensive push to form the second barrier

Where, in all this shyness and the caution, lies the ego to score over 50 first class centuries, seven in Tests? Is it quite a different Fletcher who cracks the ball through extra-cover off the back foot, sweeps the spinners from the outside off stump and gathers his runs with patient greed? He has never been short of a stroke, but he lets out the riches slowly, with chance eliminated, preferring to spread them over a long innings- no dazzling cameos for him, rather the longest possible string of matching pearls.

His talents might have declined as most do in the shadow of the fortieth year He has not quite been the 'Fletch' of old since the terror tour of Australia in 1974, but he is not alone in that Being hit on the head by Lillee and Thomson at their fastest looked to be one of the unavoidable chores of playing for England under Mike Denness. Few returned unchanged Yet Fletcher was back out in Australia for the Centenary Test in 1977, his last Test appearance

His captaincy has worked marvels for Essex, but everyone knew it would. In this seven years of captaincy, he has led Essex to the Schweppes County Championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and twice to second place in the John Player League.

He was always a thinker on the field Brian Taylor, captain before him and Essex wicket-keeper, kept Gnome alongside him at slip He had two excellent reasons for that. Firstly, Keith Fletcher is an excellent slip fielder, despite the myopic rantings of a minority of Yorkshiremen who saw him struggle with a couple of chances at Headingley which their own Philip Sharpe, they were certain, would have copped, had he been chosen. They hounded him through his Test career on that ground, notably once when he got bogged down with the bat. An announcement came over the loudspeaker for the removal of a car in the car park. "Can't be Fletcher's", someone said. "He can't drive."

Fletcher can catch and drive 'Tonker' Taylor wanted him close by because he proved to be a marvellous reader of opposing batsmen, "You wanna slip bogey at 'em Tonks," you could hear the Fletcher drawl Or, "ees too square down there tonks. Get 'im finer."

Happily for Essex, Brian Taylor recognised the Fletcher touch and nurtured it

Keith Fletcher is the right choice for India because of these qualities on the field, also he has toured there twice before, he has the authority of 56 Test matches behind him, and, perhaps most important of all, he has a genuine affection for the country



I recall Keith Fletcher raising spirits at Bombay in the fifth and final Test back in 1973. Black September assassination threats had come to the team Genuine or not, we had lived under armed supervision for three months On the eve of this Test, the England team refused to play unless residents were cleared from the windows which overlooked the Brabourne Stadium

The Indians managed it. Next day, instead of flat dwellers, there were helmets glinting in the sunshine on rooftops as we took to the field. Some of the England team were more uncomfortable than others. Keith Fletcher and Alan Knott, especially, kept looking up and around the surrounding buildings, still searching for The Jackal. They would not stay still. I was used to seeing fielders walk in as the bowler runs up, but never have I seen wicketkeeper and first slip on the move too at the same time.

I got after Fletcher. "For goodness sake stand still or go off." He lifted his twinkling eyes from the ground and replied "It's okay for you, skip. If he shoots at you he'll only get you in the leg so that you can be lbw again." (Reference to the habit of Indian umpires of giving the bowler the benefit of the doubt every time the ball hit my leg.)

I trust that Keith Fletcher will find his best form on tour, and also get the best from others. Mike Brearley has proved beyond question the value of good captaincy, but Brearley's own best form was rarely reproduced in Tests, so was Ian Botham's If Keith Fletcher bats as he can, he will be the first for a long time to give the lead with his own talents. Not is he just an Indian specialist. I would expect him to do well enough to continue at home next summer.

Among other memories of the 1972-73 tour of India is one of Keith Fletcher quietly informing me that one of the players was upset that he had no letters from home. "Have a word with him, skip," he said. Then again, before a fielding session in the Bombay Test, he took me aside and advised "Get 'em together, captain, give us a rocket before we go out, I think some of the bowlers' heads are beginning to drop: bad sign "

The great value of this sort of advice for a captain is that he can solve the problems before they get too big. Keith Fletcher will certainly ask one of his side to keep him in touch with the team as he did for me, alongside my advisor-in-chief, Norman Gifford

The best innings I saw Keith play in India was at Madras on that same tour In a very poor England batting performance of 242 in the first innings, he scored 97 not out. Chandra took 6 for 90, Bishan Bedi 2 for 66, and Prasanna 2 for 47. Keith had scored a hundred in the previous match against the South Zone at Bangalore and he moved straight away into his shots. He hit four sixes and kept England in the game by putting on 124 runs with the tailenders Geoff Arnold and Norman Gifford. He was inventive on a spinning surface and that night, Bishan Bedi told me that he had seen one of the very best innings in tricky circumstances.

Off the field, in the social way, Keith Fletcher is modest and quiet with a gentle sense of humour He will not be flamboyant like Tony Greig who used the grab the front seat on the bus to the ground each day so that he could wave like a film star at his adoring fans

He will not, like Greig, push oranges up his sweater on the field to raise a laugh. Nor will he be like Lewis either, whatever he was like

We are all different However, with Keith Fletcher, it may take India longer to realise that the shuffling, downcast, diminutive leader is both a strong man and a delightful personality. It would be very silly to underestimate him, and sad if you got him wrong

County Cricket Review

Fitting end to another classic season

ASHIS RAY reports from London

SUDDEN drama has been a common feature in the climax to an English season, and this year it has been no different. After months of suspense and excitement, the Schweppes County Championship and the John Player Sunday League were resolved within 24 hours of each other, with Nottinghamshire duly capturing the "three day" title and Essex, also not surprisingly, making sure of the honour in the 40 over affair.

It took Notts just two days to wrap up their match against Glamorgan at Trent Bridge on a fast and unaccountable pitch. Richard Hadlee finished with 8 for 56 in the tie. In fact he has made an enormous contribution towards the County's success this summer by gobbling up 105 wickets. He also got 142 versus Yorkshire, among other valuable etchings with the bat.

Paul Todd, the opener, generally gave an aggressive start to the innings, and Derek Randall, in the middle order, especially in the second half of the season, provided immense stability. Indeed, the latter's 1100 odd runs included three centuries, and, as always, he was irrepressible in the field.

Another leading light was the off spinner Eddie Hemmings, who when wickets responded to spin, proved more often than not to be a match winner. In fact, his tally of more than 90 wickets is an ample evidence of this.

But the maximum credit has to go to the skipper and supreme all rounder, Clive Rice. With around 1500 runs and almost 70 wickets from his 21 outings—he missed one game—he has virtually epitomised himself to be an exemplary leader in the field, committing only a few errors in the handling of his bowlers and the placement of the field. But more important, right from the beginning of the season he infused into his boys the confidence to win.

Nottinghamshire, one of the nurseries of the game in this country, won the County championship twelve times between 1865 and 1929. But since then, they have never been in the running for the top mantle. Indeed the glorious past has become a myth as they languished for long in the back waters of the sport.

Some, however, will question the ruthless approach of the South African. At the very outset of the summer, Rice exhorted that no pains should be spared by his County "to exploit every conceivable advantage of playing at home". And since the ground staff at Trent Bridge consistently served up a green top to suit Hadlee and Rice, a few observers feel that this policy was carried to unsporting limits. But it should not be forgotten that Notts had to bat in such conditions, too, and the fact that Hemmings picked up so many wickets, emphasises that the dice was not loaded irreproachably in the quicker bowlers' favour.

So, it is bad luck, one might say, for Sussex, who were placed second, after being in the running for top position for the greater part of the season. Actually, Nottinghamshire set the pace from the very outset, but fell behind marginally mid-way through the season, only to recover like champions. One slip and Sussex would have pipped them at the post. But there was no such let-up. Rice described it as "a magnificent team effort".

Notts won their trophy and the championship cake that goes with it, on Monday September 14. The previous evening, at The Oval, Essex made sure of the "Sunday" prize by defeating Surrey in an eventful match.

Before the commencement of pro-

Player of the week

Richard Hadlee

IN a week conspicuous for the remarkable innings played by Norbert Phillip, and the equally exciting, and certainly more sophisticated one dished out by Vivian Richards, picking the Player of the Week—the final choice of the season—is again a problem. But being a traditionalist and a supporter of first-class cricket when it comes to a comparison with the over-limit game, I would ignore both performances, and instead, cast attention



on the several impressive showings in the final round of County championship engagements.

Mike Gatting got a hard-hitting 186 against Derbyshire, Chris Tavare, a highly cultured unbeaten 135 versus Worcestershire, and Monty Lynch a rather athletic 120 not out at the expense of Essex, not to mention the 75 by Javed Miandad in very difficult conditions at Trent Bridge.

But the one exhibition to my mind, overshadowing all these efforts was the bowling of Richard Hadlee, who, as has been stated in the adjacent article, took 8 for 56 against Glamorgan to round off the summer in stupendous fashion for Nottinghamshire.

Hadlee, in fact, captured 4 for 18 and 4 for 38 in the two Glamorgan innings which earned a 10-wicket victory for his side. This may not appear to be all that extraordinary in terms of the number of wickets obtained. But to maintain one's peak amidst all the pressures of a late-season situation is an outstanding achievement, and the New Zealander has done it quite consistently this summer. Indeed, this great fast bowler, if anything, reveals himself fully under tension.

Time and again have I seen him uncoil his best when he has been the only resort for a New Zealand captain. And when it was vitally important that Nottinghamshire should win their last game, Hadlee, not surprisingly, was not found wanting.

The youngest son of the former New Zealand captain, Walter Hadlee, and younger brother of Dayle, who preceded him on the Test scene, Richard Hadlee hails from Christchurch. Signed up by Nottinghamshire in 1978, he won his cap the same year and, along with Clive Rice, has always threatened to add a new dimension to his County's standards. This he has finally succeeded in doing, taking 105 wickets this year, with a best effort 7 for 25 against Lancashire.

So, Hadlee, after not much deliberation, was the Player of the Week.

ceedings on this crucial Sabbath, the situation was that Essex had to win their last game to ensure the title, if Warwickshire, playing the same day, got the better of Somerset As it transpired, Warwicks lost, and so, Essex ended up with a clear six-point lead over their nearest rivals, as well as Somerset, who moved up to parity with Bob Willis' side after their victory

A little muddle over the rules resulted in Essex batting first, returning to the fray for an extra over Rain had delayed the start and there was some confusion as to whether 38 or 39 overs were to be the yardstick. In fact, after the batsmen and the fielders had trooped off after the 38th when Essex were 184 for 6, Keith Fletcher lodged a protest with the umpires, and that extra over was granted And Norbert Phillip—80 not out at the end—hammered 19 off it

Indeed, the West Indian, primarily a bowler but often promoted in the batting order in one-day games, struck 34 of the 37 runs scored in the last two overs to propel his side to a much happier position than earlier envisaged Indeed, in a remarkable flurry of strokes he hit five sixes—two of them off the last two balls of the innings

The target of 204 was not unattainable, but Surrey never quite came to grips with the demand And with the left-arm spinner, Ray East, bowling exceedingly well to return figures of 2 for 21 in his eight overs, the chase was nipped in the bud good and proper Towards the end, the veteran Graham Roope remained unbeaten on 60 but Fletcher had controlled the circumstances with his customary shrewdness to be in no real danger of losing the match Surrey's effort amounted to 182 for 5, which was far too inadequate after Phillip's murderous assault

In the case of Warwickshire, Vivian Richards and Joel Garner denied them any pleasure by getting a hundred and taking 3 for 28 respectively The Antiguan produced another rip roaring innings—this time of 101 -to hoist his side to a total of 211 for 6 in only 28 overs The match was curtailed due to the weather And in response, Warwicks could manage to score only 153 for 7 Incidentally, Dilip Doshi, who played a significant part in Warwickshire's triumph in this competition last year, was completely overlooked this season in one day matches In fact, even in the County Championship he turned out in only two thirds of the games, to take only 45 victims as opposed to his haul of 101 last year The indications appear to be that he will lose his contract after this season although some of the other Counties in desperately in need of a spinner, could show some interest in the Bengal players' services From 1982 only one overseas cricketer signed after 1978 can figure in a County fixture with a maximum of two, overall And it seems that Warwickshire would prefer to retain the South African all rounder Anton "yogi" Ferreira rather than Doshi

Of course, it has been a bleak season for the Indian left arm spinner He broke a bone in his right-hand, which was over and above the foot fracture suffered during the tour of Australia Indeed, even when he has taken wickets, he has proved expensive, lacking his usual immaculate control But Doshi remarks "There is more to it than meets the eye", and explains that "It has been a calculated policy to oust me" He argues that he was handled like a pace bowler, given short spells and never allowed to settle down "I took the highest number of wickets and more economically than anyone else in the one day games last season, yet, never got a look in for these matches this summer" But he is not particularly upset about his impending departure from Edgbaston and calls the new rule as being responsible

So the curtain has fallen on another English season The summer has seen the success of Somerset in the Benson and Hedges Cup of Derbyshire in the new Natwest Trophy and of Nottinghamshire and Essex in the two League contests But, perhaps 1981 will also be remembered for the exotic batting of Zaheer Abbas restored to his old majesty and grandeur and who, in a single wicket play off with Vivian Richards got the better of the Antiguan, as well

Anton Ferreira contributed much to Warwickshire's success





Dilip Doshi - a disappointing season

Wellham and his ilk

THERE is no greater thrill for a batsman than scoring a century in his very first Test match

In the sixth Test match of the recently-concluded Ashes series Dirk Wellham hit a hundred and became the twelfth Australian to hit a century on debut for his country

The 5 feet 8 inch tall Wellham was dropped when only 10 at mid-on off Botham. He was nearly out again at 99 when Boycott muffed a simple chance at mid-off and a thousand prayers must have gone up in Australia for Geoffrey's well-being If only an encephalograph could reveal what Boycott was thinking!

The youngest of a beaten side, the 22-year-old batsman from New South Wales batted for nearly 4½ hours in a glorious innings, only his 21st in first class cricket. When just one run away from the magic number he ran out of strokes, but finally triumphed after a patient wait for 18 balls to become the first Australian after Harry Graham to hit a hundred on debut on English soil

"He plays straighter than most modern batsmen and produces from time to time—he went on to his 100 with one of them—a stroke through the off side off the back foot of much brilliance There is little doubt about his temperament either," remarked a critic who had watched him closely.

The first man to hit a century in his initial outing was Charles Bannerman English-born Bannerman escaped at nine when Tom Armitage of Boycott's county dropped him From then on it became a lone fight. He played with great determination as was called for on a pitch behaving like a spiked bed. At the end of the day's play he remained unbeaten with 126 against his name at Richmond Paddock's little score board after 200 minutes of batting. His side's score was 166 for 6. Individual brilliance thus compensated for collective failure

He treated England's top-liners with equal contempt the following day and retired hurt at 165 when a Ullyett delivery injured one of his fingers. He had been wearing gloves but the protective rubber was missing.

Immediately the hat was passed around and £83 was realised as a token of appreciation of his innings. He ought to have been weighed in gold. His innings, inclusive of 15 boundaries, was made out of a total of 245, no other batsman making more than 18.

It was 'Little Dasher' Harry Graham who became the first Australian to hit a century in England in his opening Test, when he hit 107 at Lord's in 1893 in a total of 269 Making their debut with him were F S. Jackson, Mold, Flowers, Lockwood and Wainwright.

A year and a half later he played yet another outstanding innings—this time at Sydney and against England once more—worth 104 runs in his first Test in his own country, thereby completing the unique double of a 'ton' in opening encounters in both countries.

The Sydney innings, however, was more memorable On a rain damaged wicket he put up a brave fight against the Englishmen and his batting was rated by Tommy Horan, a noted player and a leading critic, as the most inclement of its type ever seen in Australia. The home side won hands down by an innings and 147 runs.

It is a pity that Graham played only half a dozen times for his country and only once abroad, during the English tour of 1896. Like other batsmen, spells of inconsistency troubled him and he died early.

The story of Reggie Duff's first hundred was an innings of splendid batting helped by keen power of observation. Brought into the Test side for the first time at Melbourne in 1901-02, Duff was baptised by fire The wicket was at its worst and Australia made only 112, England mustering even less—61! Australia ended the first day with 99 to its credit with half the side out Skipper Darling opted for shuffling the batting order and batsmen moved up and down like painters on a ladder. Amidst the confusion Duff was demoted to number 10 at which stage the pitch was expected to behave more politely.

He got his chance the following morning and after much nail-biting scored 104 to the everlasting trepidation of McLaren and his boys In this battle of attrition Australia emerged the better side by 229 runs.

He lived up to his potential with the passing of the years and went on to open with Trumper in Tests. Not always did it prove a profitable partnership..There were times when 'VTT' pursued his habit of taking a run off the first ball of a Test with more intrepidity and often Duff had to be

Dirk Wellham has his stumps shattered by Bob Willis during the sixth Test at The Oval



run-out in the process!

The sun rose for Roger Hartigan at Adelaide in early 1908. He scored 48 in his very first Test innings as Australia totalled 285 to which England replied with a lead of 78 runs. But things did not go as planned in the ensuing innings Australia lost six wickets for 180 runs, practically only 102 runs on The atmosphere at picturesque Adelaide looked despondent and men began to leave.

Just when England came to terms with the circumstances, Hill was dropped at 22 and Hartigan at 32 That was the last opportunity that came England's way and Hill with his fledgling partner stuck like limpets turning the wheel of fortune towards Australia They ended the day at 397„ Valhalla still far away.

The next morning Hartigan went first at 423, having contributed 116 in their partnership stand of 243 What a way to make a debut! Australia amassed 506 and won comfortably by 245 runs One surprising fact makes itself known--the great Barnes was hit for 83, Fielder for 81 and Braund for 85 Rhodes, given a bowl, squandered 81 and was wicketless!

Fortune smiled on 'Horseshoe' Collins in the very first Test of his career He made 70 and 104 in that Sydney Test and proved that it was no fluke when he followed it with 64 at Melbourne, 162 at Adelaide and 59 at Melbourne

Nicknamed appropriately, Collins proved that it was not just luck that brought him this early success He possessed one of the most shrewd brains known to the game He was Armstrong's deputy when the Aussies steamrollered their way through in 1921 and that winter he was 'crowned' against South Africa on the way home He successfully defended the Ashes in 1924-25, but was a sad man when England won at The Oval in 1926 and restored honours after a lapse of 14 years.

William Harold Ponsford became the sixth Australian to register himself for the honour when he made 110 at Sydney in 1924-25

"I was 24, and a very nervous young man," said Ponsford, "I can never seem to remember with any accuracy much about cricket dates and statistics, but that day on the Sydney Cricket Ground, December 19, 1924, although nearly 33 years behind me, is as fresh today and much more memorable

"Maurice Tate was a big shouldered, 15 stone giant, with a deceptively short run He came in flat-footed and swung his arm over He was no express and I thought I saw the ball well I went to make my stroke The ball swung a little, hit the pitch, and fizzed through like a flat pebble off a millpond It beat me, beat the wicket and beat the 'keeper, Bert Strudwick It went for four byes

"The next ball, I swore, would not do the same humiliating thing. It did—although this time Strudwick took it. The third ball I watched as if it were a bomb But again it swung at the last moment, came off the pitch like a Larwood bouncer, went through me and the wicket-keeper as well, and shot to the fence for four more byes Little 'Tich' Freeman was bowling leg-breaks at the other end. I got a four off him and was so relieved at missing a 'blob' that my confidence, so shattered by Tate, returned I made a century, which I think was chanceless, and we won the match on the seventh day, by 195 runs



Wellham, on 99 takes evasive action against a bouncer from Botham

It was 19-year-old Archie Jackson, considered by many to be as good as Trumper, who next scored a century in his debut Test He hit 164 against England at Bradman's home town of Adelaide by virtue of a splendid piece of batting

He had scored 96 before lunch on the third day and when he was coming out to resume Bradman advised, "Take your time and you will get your century in your first Test"

Larwood's opening delivery was straight out of the oven and short Jackson whipped it to the point boundary and went on to make a formidable score, following it with 36 in the second innings

He made 1858 runs in Sheffield Shield cricket, averaging over 50 and in ten completed Test innings hit 474—all out of a picture-book He might have gone on to become one of Australia's greatest batsmen ever, but died when only 21 in 1933

It was Jim Burke for the palm next when he made an unbeaten 101 at Adelaide, this time in February 1951 A pianist and a mimic extraordinary, Jim was often pressurised to step on the keys at the crease and in his rarer moments was quite expected to break into a canter An off-break bowler of a not-too-dangerous quality he was also one of the 'characters' of the game and there were few grim moments when he was around

Doug Walters, better known as the Dungog Dasher, was just a farm boy when he was called up for duty on December 13th, 1965 at Brisbane Four wickets had fallen when he was to go in and there was only one more recognised batsman in Tom Veivers to come. He began with a firm drive that ripped through the crowded on side for four off only the third delivery that he had faced. That was resistance for him!

At lunch, Australia was 150 for 4 and not yet out of hot waters But Lawry and he steered Australia out of trouble and the score had reached a safe periphery when the dour left hander departed at 312 By the end of the day Walters was 119 and still not out Next day he completed 155 when batsmen and ninepins seemed alike

Critics hailed the arrival of a new Bradman, but even Douglas Walters shall admit that there can be only one Sir Donald

It was Greg Chappell's innings at Perth in his very first Test that set the ground on fire He made 108, a prolific beginning to a prosperous Test career But his finest was reckoned to have been played at Lord's in 1972 when he made 131 in the most exquisite manner and the scene when he returned to the pavilion should have been seen—and heard--to have been believed.

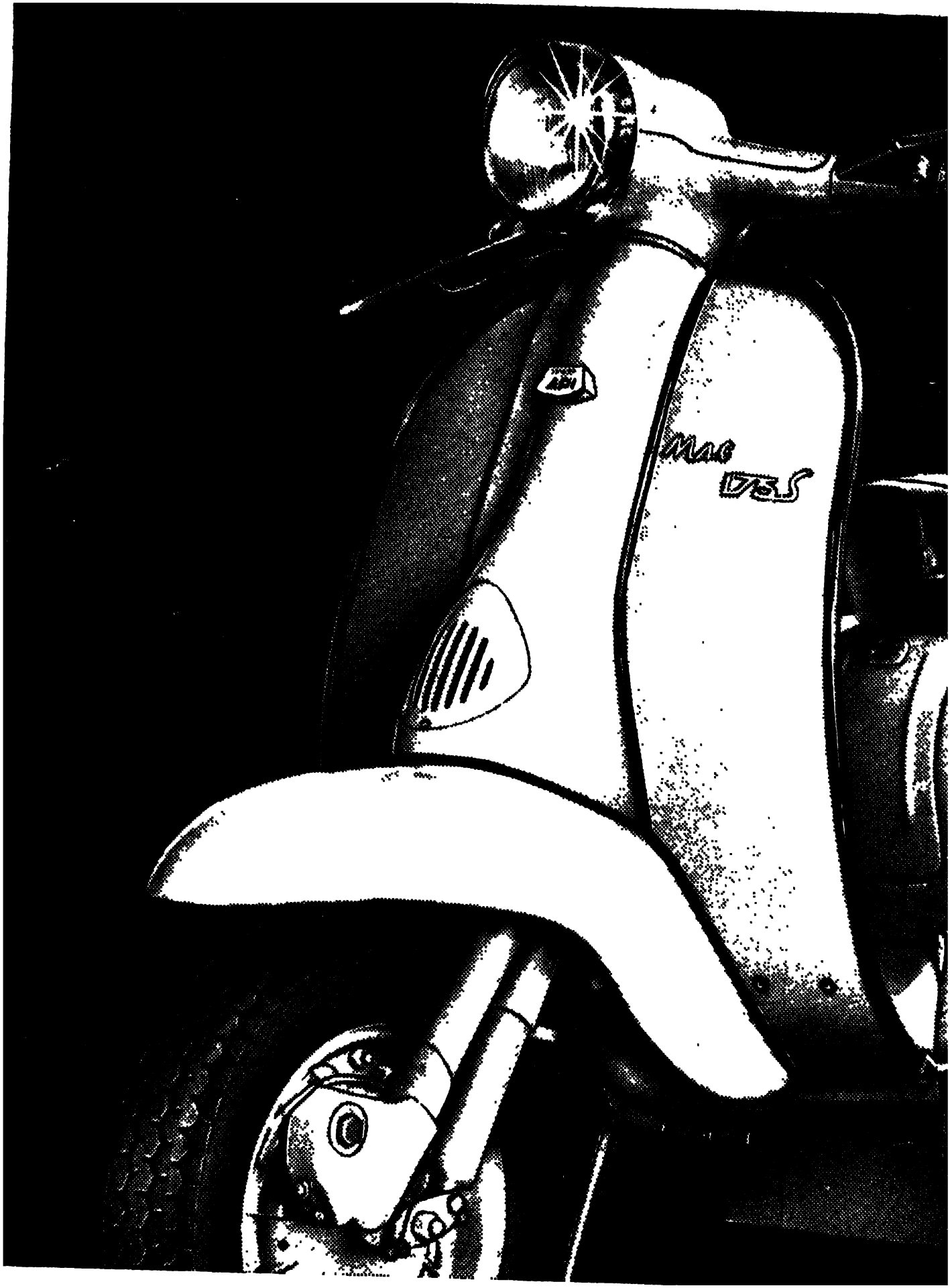
Against the Indians nine years later Chappell was to score 203 runs at Sydney A courageous innings when you consider that he was burning with 104°F in the midst of a sickness under an equally mitigated sun

The new Australian hope was Gary Cosier when he ripped apart a pace and bouncer-oriented West Indian attack at Melbourne in 1975 76 The umpire ruled in his favour when it was said that he should have gone at 5, but from then on every bowler shed tears of frustration as he moved to his century in 186 balls, 13 of them resulting in boundaries His square-cutting was pleasing and he teamed up most effectively with Greg Chappell to put on 114 and later with March to add 88 Australia won comfortably by eight wickets

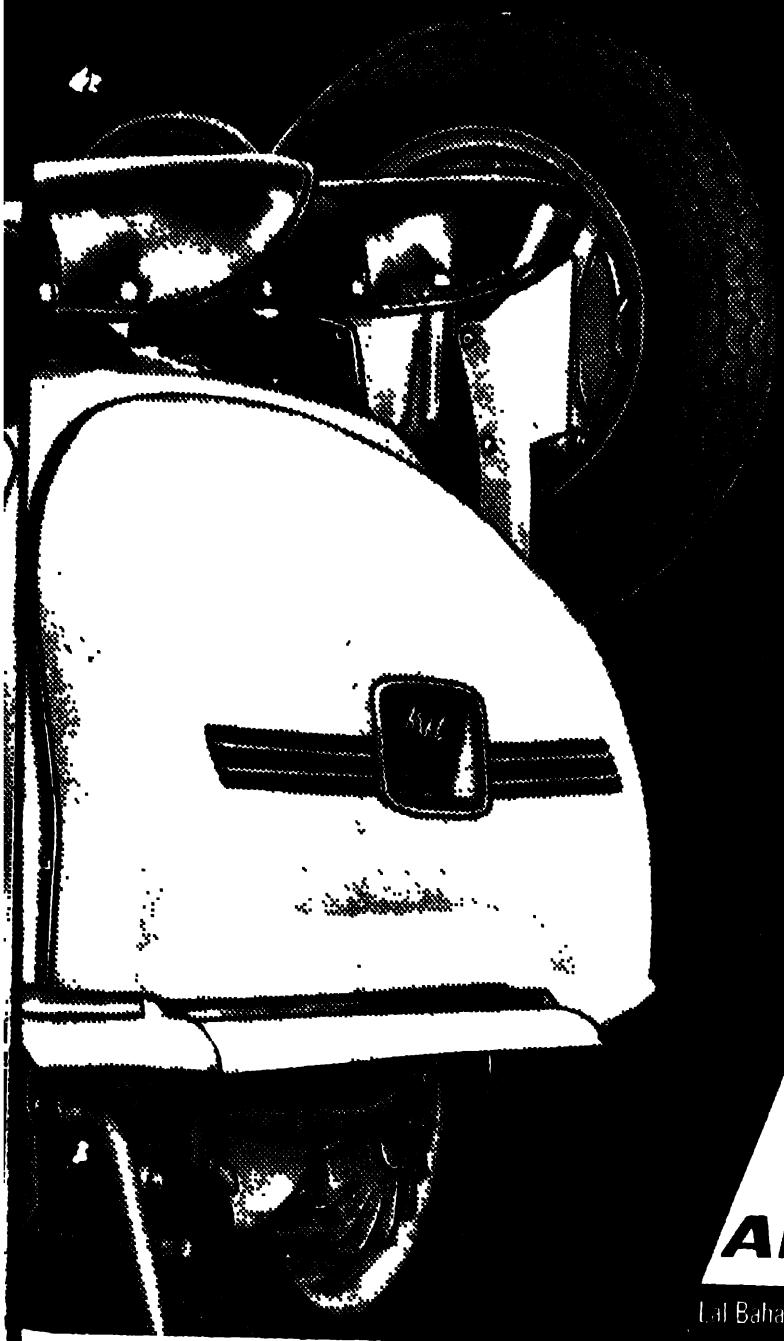
The Packer exodus made Cosier a prize commodity and a radio company contract secured his future With the intrusion of young blood Cosier gradually receded into oblivion, his work more or less over He grew a beard, put on more ounces and wore a menacing look Very much like George Bonnor but I think the resemblance ended there

And while we sing paeans and break into rhapsodies at 'Little Mastuh Wellum's 'undred', let us spare a tear for A G Chipperfield He was out in his very first Test at . 99!

A CORRESPONDENT


Mac
175

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Sportspeople

Another veteran departs

WITH the death of *Phiroze Palia* on September 9th, only four days after his 71st birthday, the world drifts further away from the glorious age when discipline was a necessity and creased flannels a treat The ageing veterans shall testify that the grass was greener and the sun was cooler and the world was a wonderful place to live in

Palia's death shall not only bring back memories, but evoke longings as well for those bygone days He was the last survivor on home soil of the historic 1932 team that went to England, masquerading as All India, for the first time after the MCC had conferred Test status on this country The remainders are Lall Singh, who is in Malaysia and Dr Jehangir Khan, father of Test star Majid, now in Pakistan

Palia, a left hander and bowler of merit, was born on September 5th, 1910 and became a force to reckon with while studying in St Xavier's College, Bombay He was just 18 when he played a pivotal role in the Parsis' victory in the Quadrangulars

Recognition was forthcoming and he found his way without much irritation to the squad of 1932 However, Palia failed to prove his ability, though *The Times* London, commented "He is a graceful left hand batsman", as he made one run in each innings, of the only Test he played there

He pulled a muscle while fielding and was out of duty, being carried out on a stretcher When it was time for him to bat C K Nayudu deferred his move to the more critical dying moments of the game Amar Singh seemed to be in a hurry, whipping England's cream about and momentarily attention was shifted from resistance to the need of a standing partner for the firebrand North Indian in the air of high tragedy

"I had torn my hemstring muscle," recalled Palia, "The same injury which Clive Lloyd suffered recently, and was not to take any further part in the Test"

"When Amar Singh started running out of partners, C K told me to pad up I pleved and in spite of unbearable pain I went up to the crease and helped Amar Singh reach his half century And it was he who got out first How many of today's cricketers would have taken the risk which I took?"

A highly interesting thought, but did this inspire Douglas Jardine, captain in that Test and in Australia that winter, to order Paynter, suffering from tonsilitis, to bat at Brisbane? "What about those fellows who marched to Kandahar with fever on them," Palia is said to have retorted in the face of protest and Paynter threw aside his kerchief, made 83 and the 'Ashes' were won

In 1936, the Selection Committee—'Vizzy' actually—picked Palia to tour England for the second time, compensating for their ignorance of him in the series of 1933-34 Though 22 players in all toured England, only six—Wazir Ali, Amar Singh, C K Nayudu, Nissar, Jehangir Khan and Palia, of course—were actually going through it again No bigger side or a more mismanaged one, perhaps, has toured Old Blighty before or since

Palia played in the very first Test at Lord's to aggregate 27, his 16 in the innings being the second highest and only a run behind Hindlekar's That was the last Test that 'Pep' ever played

Returning from England Palia moved to Bangalore where he lived till the very end of his life He went on to captain the Parsis and Mysore and after retirement became a national selector and a radio commentator on cricket matches His 216 for Uttar Pradesh against Maharashtra in 1939 40 was his highest ever, though he considered his 7 for 120 and 68 with 143 in the second innings against the Europeans in 1932 his best performance

Only last year he received the painful cobalt ray treatment for a tumour near the prostate gland. Despite the strands of grey, Palia was very young at heart, his massive build proving enough to sustain him though failing vision was a drawback

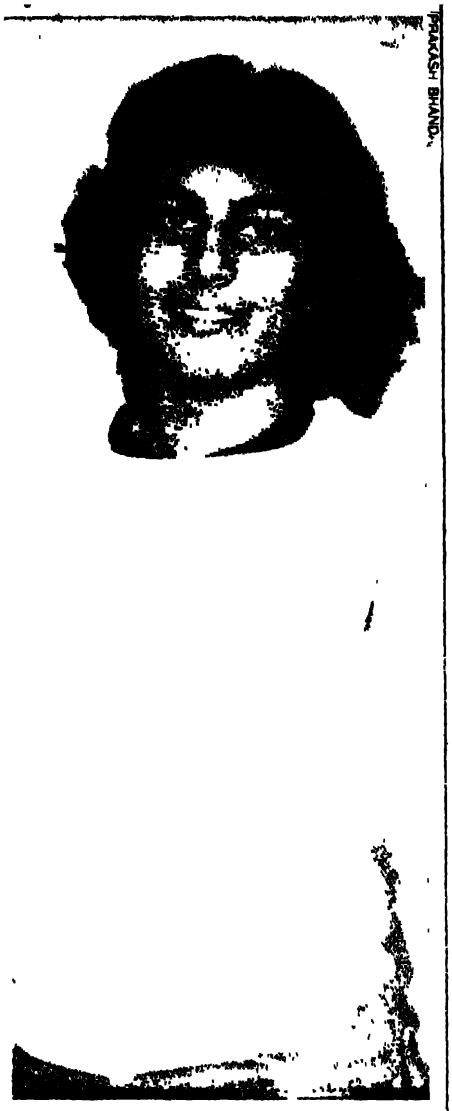
There may be many to disagree with Palia's theory that the team of 1932 was the best-ever to leave the shores of this country It contained many a jewel of the Orient, Palia being one of them, undoubtedly

A pioneer

SQUASH in India is considered to be an elitist sport Once popular among the Britishers and army personnel, the game did not prosper because of lack of courts and the high cost of squash balls which are not produced in this country It is only recently that the Squash Racket Federation of India has started taking an interest in developing the game and sending teams abroad

There are few followers of this sport among women Although tennis attracts more women, squash holds better facilities and prospects for them It can be played at any time and requires less space

Bhuwaneshwari Kumari of Delhi is the reigning national women's squash champion Squash and tennis are in her blood Her father Yashwant Singh, a former prince of Alwar in is Rajasthan, himself an accomplished squash and tennis player He is also Secretary of the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association and President of the Cycle Polo Federation of India Bhuwaneshwari also plays tennis, but squash remains her



PRAKASH BHANDA

Bhuwaneshwari Kumari

first love Her brother Yogendra Singh is among the ranked players of the country and has represented India in a few internationals Nicknamed Candy, she practises regularly for two hours, often with stronger male players of Delhi, where very few women have taken to the game so far

Candy went to Singapore last year to play in a few internationals Her trip was self financed, as neither the government nor the S R F I sponsors a woman player In the Singapore Open she was defeated in the semifinal by Singapore number two Annette Andrew But she avenged this defeat in the Malaysian Open

Candy feels that competitions are few and far between in India Her main rival is her own cousin Honey Sherman of Jaipur The two take part in the men's section also in various tournaments This enables them to sharpen their game against tough rivals

Bhuwaneshwari's ambition is to play in stiffer company in United Kingdom and participate in the circuit there She hopes more and more women will take up the game which provides the best of physical exercise

IFA SHIELD

Seeds toppled

BY the time this appears, the fate of the IFA Shield, which began a month ago in the districts will have been decided This has been the practice over the last few years, because the authorities want to popularise the game there At the same time it becomes an event that people in the districts look forward to Unfortunately, the tournament was not held last year and so the response, in the districts, was all the more overwhelming

One thing that should be noticed is that, all the teams—except Mafatlal Sports Club, Bombay—who were seeded into the pre quarter final, (Premier Tyres, Fifth Assam Rifles, Polar Star and Jagatjit Cotton and Textiles Mills, Phagwara) were beaten by teams that had worked themselves up the ladder It is indeed a good sign that less fancied sides are not afraid to draw sword with the "mightier" teams. They proved the IFA wrong in seeding these teams, who surely did not deserve the places Here is how the matches in various clusters went

CLUSTER A (ASANSOL): In a keenly contested pre quarter final match Aryan (Calcutta) accounted for Premier Tyres (Kerala) by the odd goal of three during extra-time. It was Aryan who went into the lead just after the breather, through right striker Amitava Mukherjee whose replacement gave custodian P T. Sethumadhavan no chance Twenty minutes later the lead was equalised when left half Moideen moved up and shot in from close Both teams went all out during extra-time and after Ujjal Saha's header off a centre by Srijan Das had landed in the net, the Calcutta team clung on to the lead till the end Thus, Premier Tyres, a glamour team that had been seeded directly into the pre-quarter finals, bowed out

In their earlier match, Aryan had beaten Tollygunge Agragami 2-0, both goals coming through Shyamal Bhattacharya, to move into the pre-quarter final Before losing to Aryan in the cluster final Tollygunge Agragami had accounted for Calcutta University 4-1, Chandannagar Sub-Divisional Sports Association 4-3 (tie-breaker), City Athletic Club 1-0 (extra-time) and Aikya Sammilani, whose Debashis Dutta registered a hat-trick against Hooghly DSA, the result being a massive 8-0 victory

CLUSTER B (DURGAPUR): Rajasthan had quite an easy passage into the last eight trouncing the seeded Fifth Assam Rifles 3-0 in the pre-quarter finals In fact, Rajasthan could have increased the tally but for poor marksmanship Their tie against Kumartuli prior to the match against the Assam policemen proved a morale booster as they outplayed the Kumartuli boys 5-1 Incidentally, Kumartuli won against 24-Parganas in their second meeting after the first encounter was abandoned due to poor light with both teams having scored one goal each

CLUSTER C (KRISHNANAGAR): Another seeded team, Polar Star, Vishakapatnam bowed out of the tournament when they lost to Wari AC in a pre-quarter final encounter Thus Wari moved into the quarter-final from this cluster by virtue of their one goal victory Before this match, Wari had beaten Kidderpore, but after struggling a lot, and ultimately the tie breaker did the trick Both Sonali Shibir and Barisha Sporting, a second division outfit, put up a spirited fight and made Wari sweat before losing. And in their first encounter, Wari had accounted for Andhra Club 2-0

The Nadia DSA, which ousted Calcutta's Bata 3 1 met their Waterloo at the hands of Senior Division babes Sonali Shibir (3-0) who trounced Murshidabad DSA earlier The same can be said of Barisha, who drubbed a senior Bengal Nagpur Railway side by three goals

CLUSTER D (MALDA). Calcutta Customs did themselves proud by working up from the first round to the cluster final On their way, they beat Malda DSA 1 0, fancied George Telegraph 2 0, Kamptee Inder Colliery (Nagpur) 4 1 (including a hat trick by Amartya Ghosh) and Railway Football Club 3-0 in the cluster final But they were humbled by seeded Mafatlal in the pre quarter final encounter Mafatlal, with their controlled short passes posed problems for the Calcutta players and went into the lead early in the match, through Ranjit Thapa After the change of ends, the Bombay outfit attacked with renewed vigour and added three more, Ratna Thapa (2) and Pem Dorji being the scorers.

The KIC outfit from Nagpur were lucky to survive in their first match against Calcutta Gymkhana whom they beat 3 2 on the tie breaker In their next encounter they played well, defeating Bharati Sangha 3-0 George Telegraph were also lucky when they beat Darjeeling DSA on sudden death after the teams had been deadlocked after the tie breaker Both lost to Customs however

CLUSTER E (KHARAGPUR): Jamshedpur Sports Association bulldozed their way into the quarter final thrashing JCT 5-0 in the pre quarter final encounter It was hard to believe that the fancied JCT outfit would be thrashed in such a manner by a junior side Even the presence of the great Inder Singh did not help JCT, though he paved the way for some passes which were not utilised JSA were definitely the best team in the cluster They won all their matches convincingly, scoring 18 goals and conceding only one before they met JCT First they accounted for Bankura DSA 4-0, Eastern Railway 3 0, Food Corporation of India, Patna 5 1 and in the cluster final swamped Delhi Cantonment 6 0

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Why Mohammedan S.C. withdrew

ALTHOUGH the IFA Shield is the blue riband of Indian football, it has lost much of its glamour over the years because of fewer outstation entries. Then again, the efforts made by the Indian Football Association with regard to attracting foreign teams seemed to be lethargic. In fact, prior to the tournament, the IFA said that a couple of foreign sides were likely to participate, but there was no follow up action taken The Education Ministry was apprised of this development and though it gave the green signal, nothing more was heard about these teams thereafter, to the annoyance of the Ministry.

Now that the top contenders—local giants Mohammedan Sporting—have withdrawn from the IFA Shield the tournament's prestige has been affected further Indeed, speculation was rife about the League toppers crying off, long before the Shield began While the black-and-whites were rejoicing about their League triumph, they were simultaneously assessing the pros and cons of entering the fray in the Shield without their top stars. Stalwarts Prasun Banerjee, Bhaskar Ganguly, Bidesh Bose and Shabbir Ali were away doing national duty at Kuala Lumpur. In a letter to the IFA secretary Ashok Mitra, Mr Shahazada Parvez said. "Besides the four players participating in the Merdeka, skipper Moidul Islam is seriously ill in a city hospital and Ramen Bhattacharya, Tapan Das, Amit Guha and Gouranga Banerjee are nursing various injuries."

Says a source: "Actually, we were reluctant to withdraw since the IFA Shield matters so much to Calcutta footballers. Then again, how could we take a risk with a depleted side? Surely our supporters would not have liked to see the champion team losing The officials would have been showered with invective and may even have been manhandled. It would have been a sorry state of affairs indeed.

It is hoped the club will make amends.

The month in pictures

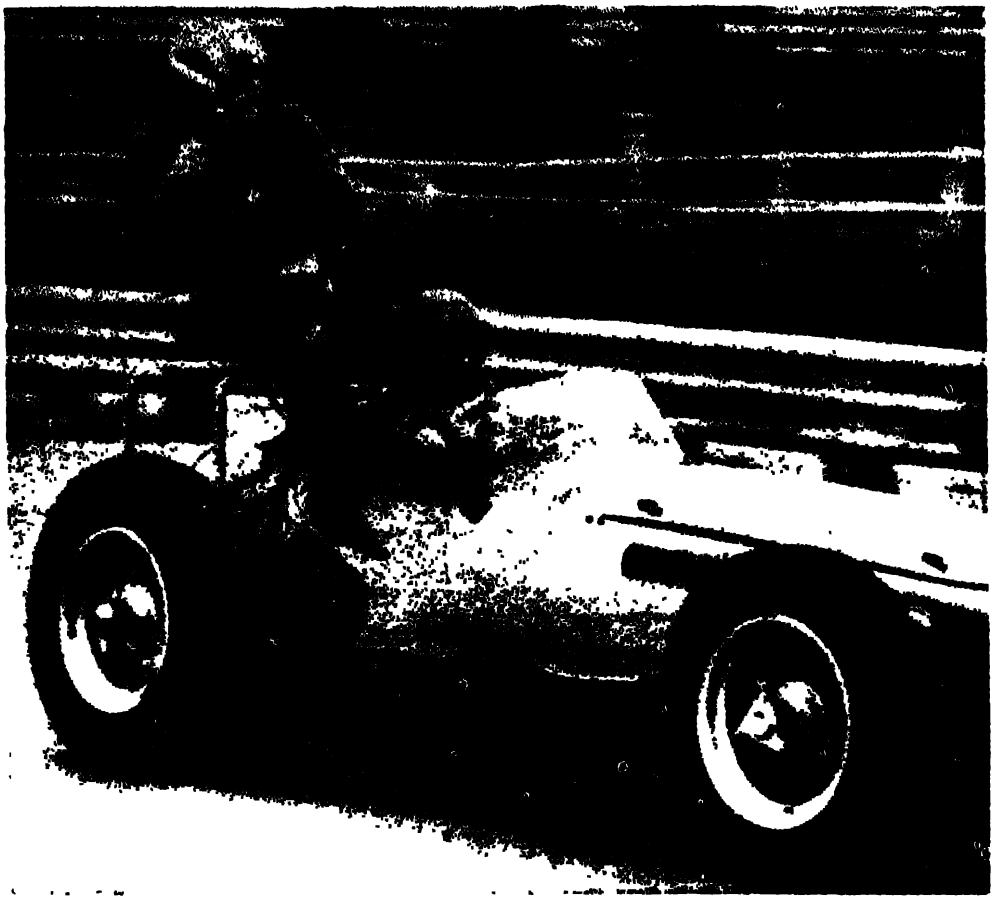
Pix: AP



Former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali holds up four fingers during a Press conference to indicate his ambition to win the title for the fourth time

Policemen in riot gear prepare to face anti-Springbok demonstrators during the rugby team's match at Auckland





Juan Manuel Fangio, the former motor racing star from Argentina drives with a cameraman perched on the back of his car in a scene from a movie on his life, which was released recently

Lord Scarman, who is probing the reasons for the Brixton riots, shares a joke with two members of Brixton West Indian XI during a break in their match against the Brixton Police Cricket Club at The Oval



CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

He gave his name to a Test match

Right through a career lasting 20 years an English all rounder maintained an average scoring rate of more than 80 runs an hour- impressive evidence to support the claim that he was the fastest scorer of all time He made 53 centuries and only three of them were scored at less than a run a minute, while most of them were well above that rate In 12 of them he reached his 100 within the hour his fastest taking only 40 minutes –the third fastest 100 on record

He made five scores of more than 200 and two of his double centuries are still among the three fastest ever scored Above all, he played one of the most famous innings in Test history 104 out of 139 in 75 minutes to make possible an historic England win by one wicket at The Oval In this Test match -with which his name is imperishably associated he came in when England, needing 263 to win had lost five wickets in reaching 48 When he left 187 of the 263 had been made and England were on their way to snatching a sensational win

And the fastest Test century against Australia had been scored In his 'Cricketers of My Times' celebrated cricket writer A A Thomson described the innings as "an apocalyptic blend of high art and controlled violence ' Sedate at first the batsman accelerated as he went on 50 in 55 minutes and 50 to 104 in only 20 minutes He hit the Australian bowlers to all parts of the field as he slammed on 17 fours and an all run five This remarkable all-rounder he took 351 wickets at an average of 22 91 and was a superlative cover-point -had a career aggregate of 26,764 runs (average 32 67) Highest of his five scores of more than 200 was 286--in 175 minutes, against Sussex In two innings at Bradford against Yorkshire he hit eight balls clean out of the ground in a match in which he scored 104 in 74 minutes and 132 in 95 minutes

QUESTION 1 Who was this hurricane hitter?

The second fastest century against Australia was posted by a 6ft 4 in South African who reached 100 in 80 minutes at Cape Town He was out stumped, for 104 the last 64 coming in 33 minutes

In South Africa's first innings he had been bowled first ball by an off spinner and in the second innings he began on what was for him a subdued note He reached 40 in 50 minutes, at which point the off spinner who had got him first ball in the first innings was called into the attack Bent on vengeance for his duck the Springbok hit the first ball out of the ground It was the signal for an all-out assault on the Australian bowlers At one stage he hit eight consecutive balls for 4 4 6,2 4 4,6 and 4 In all, his innings included six sixes and eight fours An eyewitness said the 80 minutes for the century would have been less had not so much time been taken collecting balls from the road beyond the fence The talents of the man responsible for this spectacular performance were not confined to batting Recognised as one of the finest all-rounders South Africa has produced he took more than 600 wickets in his career His high speed hundred was registered during the following sequence against Australians 108 and nine for Transvaal and Test scores of 44 19 101, 18, 0 and 104

QUESTION 2 Who was this great South African all-rounder?

A strong challenger for the title of South Africa's greatest all rounder is a player who contributed this double in a Johannesburg Test against England- 78 and 123 and 120 and 3 40 The remarkable double was achieved in the first Test of a series in which he made 545 runs at an average of 60 and took 29 wickets at 21 runs each In 'A History of Cricket' the eminent H S Altham said the Springbok had become 'a great batsman rather cramped perhaps at the start of an innings but a master of footwork and one of the greatest exploiters of the hook that ever lived' Altham added 'In fact he was at this time just about the greatest all-round cricketer in the world'

Two years earlier at Leeds on a sticky wicket, his googlies, "quickish through the air and off the pitch" accounted for such greats as Tom Hayward, J T Tyldesley Len Braund, Gilbert Jessop E G Arnold and A A Lilley for 17 runs as nine English wickets fell for 42 in little over an hour He was the outstanding batsman in a South African team that toured Australia, scoring 204 in Melbourne and a century in Adelaide –made in the first Test won by South Africa against Australia In a match lasting into the sixth day and producing 1,646 runs, the South Africans led by 17 runs on the first innings and 21 on the second--482 and 360 to 465 and 339

Australia's noted cricket writer Ray Robinson has pointed out that in this match the South Africans averaged 51 runs each 100 balls and the Australians 69 -the fastest over-all run rate by both sides in any Test In his book on the Adelaide Oval "100 Not Out', Sidney Downer said the South African all rounder played an innings of 'irreproachable' skill for 115 in his side's second innings On this tour of Australia he scored 1,651 runs with an average of 61 14 in all first-class matches and took 49 wickets at 27 06 In 10 Test innings he made 732

QUESTION 3 Who was this South African all-rounder?

In spite of the South African's heavy scoring on this tour which yielded him a Test average of 73, his performances were eclipsed by an Australian whose seven completed Test innings brought him 661 runs In the Adelaide Test in which the South African got his splendid century the Australian made 214 not out in four hours It was his highest score in Tests and the South African captain who, as wicketkeeper, was in the best position to judge said it was "quite faultless -no chance and no false stroke '

QUESTION 4 Who made this flawless double century at such a rapid rate?

After the Springbok star's double century in Melbourne the compliments he received included one from Clem Hill, who pronounced him the most effective batsman ever to visit Australia In the first Test of this series, in Sydney, Hill himself played an historic innings With fellow left-hander Warren Bardsley he hammered 224 runs for the second wicket in slightly less than two hours Hill made 191 his highest Test score in 200 minutes, his 100 coming up in 98 minutes- -time for a century equalled only once in Tests in Australia

QUESTION 5 By whom?

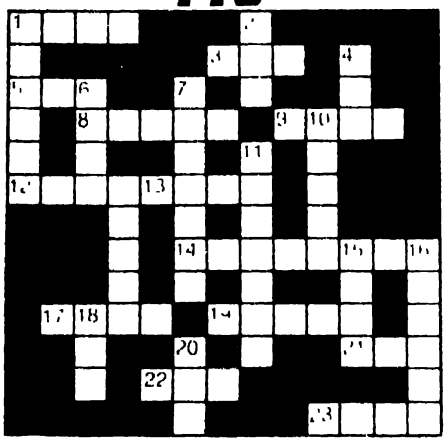
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Herbert Sutcliffe He and Hobbs (66) put up their fourth century opening stand of the series Sutcliffe's aggregate for the series was a record 734 2 The English captain Freddie Brown 3 Len Hutton In the first Test he made 8 not out and 62 not out in the second 12 and 40, in the third 62 and 9, in the fourth 156 not out and 45 and in the fifth 79 and 60 not out 4 Wilfred Rhodes 5 Ray Illingworth, whose team won the the 1970-71 series 2-0, with four matches drawn, to regain the Ashes lost to Richie Benaud's 1958-59 side

Crossword

Jones & O'Hren

115



ACROSS

1 Socialise on the golf course (4)
3 Completes 5 across (3)
5 Pioneers of Dutch tennis start here (3)
8 Many of the same pop group, is the Christian name of ex Indian cricket star (5)
9 First to cross the Channel with ducks feet (4)
12 Tennis player becomes brown when playing on Centre Court in the sun (7, 1)
14 Boxer sounds like giving many people refuge (5, 6)
17 Runner-up to Johnny in 100 metres freestyle in 1924 (4)
19 Hear while taking a lift from senior Irish golfer (1, 4)
21 Lillee's fast bowling goes back (3)
22 See 14 across
23 Don't get a bridge degree (4)

DOWN

1 Play croquet on tribunals (6)
2 First sounds like looking at this cricket body (1, 1, 1)
4 Ascending, what scissor is to tailor, this is to cricketer (3)
6 The fame of English cricket (4)
7 Beatified sounding book records transactions on race-course (5, 5)
10 Rye ME is lost on a Canadian Bobsleigh (5)
11 Country first producing good athletes and swimmers before lunch (7)
13 Not only found at the Railway End (5)
16 French article precedes ungrammatical male racers (2, 4)
18 Polly initially returns (3)
20 See 7 down

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

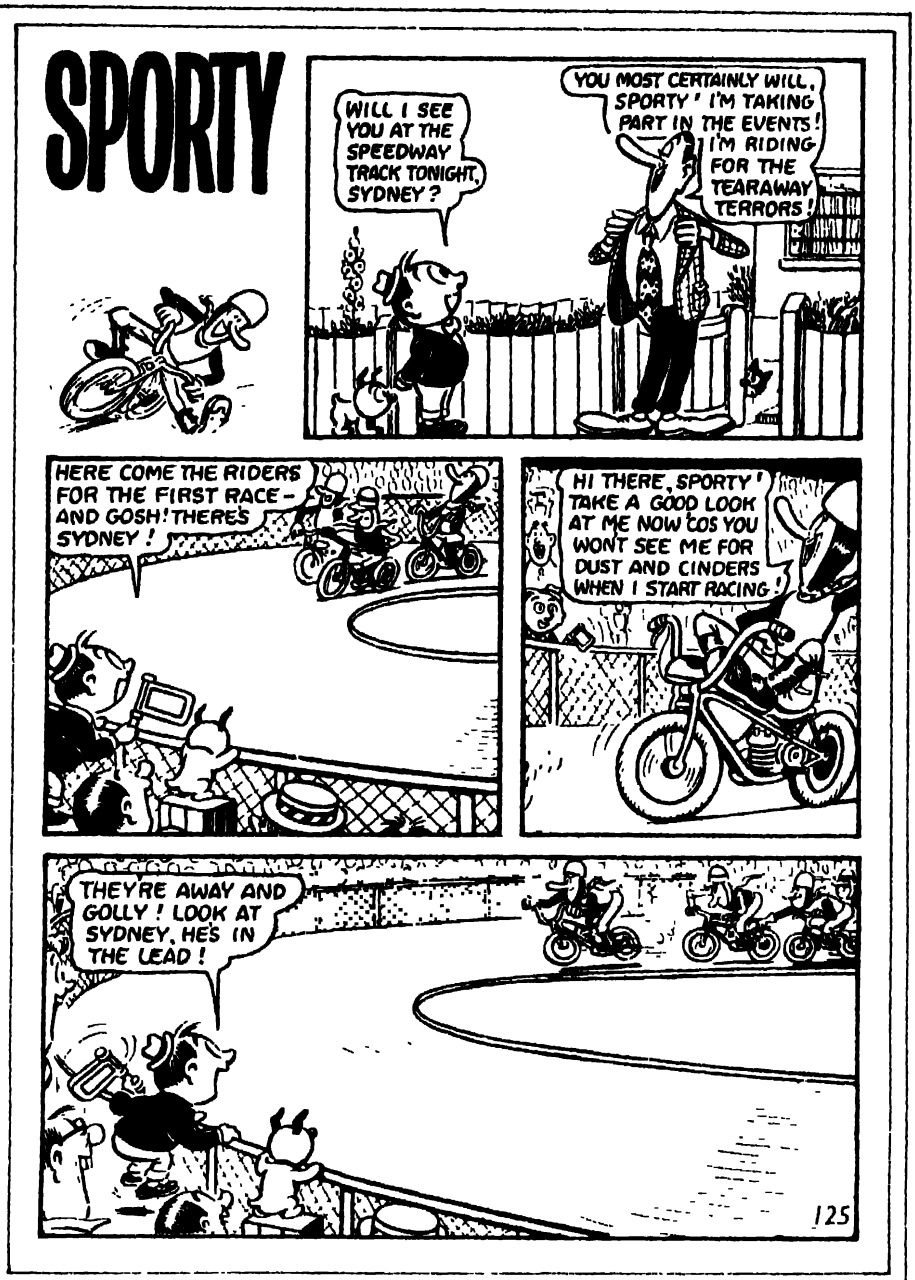
QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks —

1 Before taking to tennis, Borotra used to—some twenty miles a day
2 Jaroslav Drobny was a star in the game of—
3 Fazal Mahmood took 12 for 99 when Pakistan beat England at — (Mention the ground)
4 The first Grand Prix tennis championship of India was held at—in—
5 —and —scored for India against South Korea in the 1962 Asian Games soccer final at Jakarta
6 —is India's first women player to win the National badminton singles title for four years in succession
7 —of India was honoured with the title "Best boxer in Asia", a distinction bestowed for the first time in the history of the Asian Games
8 —first-class Counties take part in England's County Cricket championship
9 Mr —was the first president of India's Cri-control Board
10 India lost—to Indonesia in the pre-Olympic soccer match at Burma in 1972

ANSWERS

1 Cycle
2 Ice hockey
3 The Oval
4 Delhi, 1973
5 P K Banerjee Jarnail Singh
6 Meena Sihan
7 Padam Bahadur Mall
8 Seventeen
9 R E Grant Govan
10 3-4



Question box

S.S.R.Murty, Visakhapatnam.

Q. How many balls were bowled per over when India played in Australia in 1977-78?

A. 8 balls per over

Vijay Kumar, Dumra Sitamarhi.
Q. Is a 'no-ball' counted, if a run is taken as a bye?
A. In any event 'no-ball' is never counted in an over
Q. When did B S.Bedi and K D Ghavri make their Test debut?
A. Bedi made his debut at Calcutta against West Indies in 1966-67 and Ghavri also made his debut at Calcutta against West Indies in 1974-75

A.R.Khan, Calcutta.
Q Who was India's captain in the first Test against West Indies played at Bangalore in 1974-75
A. M A K Pataudi

Anilendu Bhattacharya, Maligaon.
Q. Who holds the record of hitting maximum number of sixes in Tests?
A W R Hammond of England, who hit 10 sixes in his score of 336 n o against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

S.Venkatesan, Trichy.
Q. When, where and against whom did Vivian Richards make his Test debut?
A. In the first Test against India at Bangalore in 1974-75.

Bivash Kumar Banerjee, Ambagan.
Q. What are the dates of birth of D.R Hadlee and R J Hadlee?
A. D R Hadlee was born on 6.1 1948 and R J Hadlee on 3 7 1951

Jayanti Sen, Durgapur.
Q. How many Test centuries have been hit by Alvin Kallicharran of West Indies?
A. Twelve

Krishna Pradhan, Malda, Bansbari.
Q. What is the bowling record of Sikander Bakht?
A. 20 Tests, 3,865 balls, 115 maidens, 1,909 runs, 58 wickets, 32.91 average 3 times, 5 wickets in an innings, once over 10 wickets in a match
Q. When, where and against whom did Gavaskar make his first century in first-class cricket?
A. 114 for Bombay vs Rajasthan at Bombay in 1969-70 in the Ranji Trophy final

Bridge

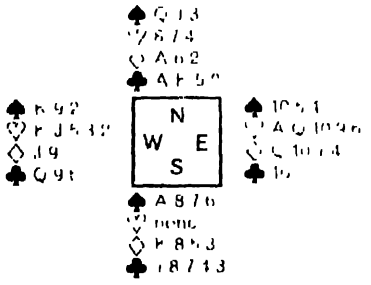
Pon Schapiro

Many, many years ago I was taken to a cricket match. As the local heroes came down the pavilion steps they were greeted with cheers and applause. Then a small, worried looking man made a fleeting appearance and was met with instant jeers and catcalls from the spectators. I didn't understand the intricacies of cricket then and I still don't but I asked why the little man had run into such a hostile reception. "Why, lad, 'e's one of 'them selectors'", was deemed sufficient explanation.

The BBL selectors were taking similar risks when they omitted Raymond Brock and Bill Pencharz from this year's European team in spite of the fact that they formed half of the winning team in the trials that does seem a bit hard.

Two players who are included, however, are Irving Rose and Rob Sheehan (who were members of the British team that did so well in the Monte Carlo Olympiad). The European, by the way, is re-scheduled for the Grand Hotel in Birmingham on July 11-25, in lieu of troubled Poland.

I played with Irving in the hurly burly of the big Philip Morris Easter event a little while ago and watched him do well on the following fantastic outing:



North dealt at love all and the wonderful bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1 ♣	1 ♡
1 ♠	1 NT (!)	2 ♠	pass
4 ♠	pass	pass	pass

West's 1NT, with a good fit in his partner's hearts, was perhaps a little joke but it talked me into making an anti-system raise to two spades with only three card support.

Against four spades West led a low heart and Irving ruffed. He continued with a low spade and when dummy's Queen was allowed to hold ruffed another heart in hand. Then, remembering West's no trump bid, came ♣ J. West covered and East's 10 was pinned. Now a trump to the Ace was followed by running ♣ 8 for East to ruff. On the lead of ♡ Q, Irving (without any trumps left) discarded a diamond. East *might* have continued hearts (one off), West *might* have overtaken to draw dummy's last trump (two off), but East switched to diamonds and suddenly South had 10 tricks.

I liked the play of the club suit - a splendid piece of opportunism.

Last week's quiz. At game all in teams play you hold ♠ 3 2 ♡ 5 2 ◇ 7 6 2 ♣ K Q J 10 9 5. The problem was whether you should open the bidding with three-clubs or not, and whether your opponents' bidding methods might influence you. The full-piece was something of a red herring, I'm afraid. I would never open a three bid vulnerable with only a six card suit. On some hands my decision to pre-empt or pass might be affected by the ability of my left-hand opponent to double for business rather than take-out, but not on this hand!

This week's quiz. A reader asks: "Is it silly to give up the prospects of rich penalties and play the double of a pre-emptive bid for take-out?"

Chess

Peter Clarke

The sudden finish to the game given below makes a good sequel to the one of a fortnight ago illustrating the theme of 'zugzwang' in chess. The neat tactical blow which knocks Black out was probably overlooked by him and most of the spectators, but the winner had no doubt seen the possibility in advance. Indeed, if I know Petrosian, he saw the combination as no more than a logical means of exploiting his great positional advantage, consisting in the superior pawn structure and a Knight against a 'bad' Bishop. At a superficial glance the Bishop did not look at all bad, being posted command-ingly in the centre and supported on both sides by pawns. However, the pawns were isolated, which meant that the squares immediately in front of them (White's Q4 and K4) were very vulnerable and consequently Black's central formation lacked flexibility: his Bishop could be described as rooted to the spot.

White: **Tigran Petrosian**; Black: **Borislav Ivkov**. Queen's Gambit Declined, Semi Slav Defence. (Yugoslavia USSR Match, Teslic, 1979.)

1 P - Q4, P - Q4;	**2 P - QB4, P - QB3**
3 Kt - KB3, Kt - R3;	**4 P - K3, P - K3**
5 B - Q3, QKt - Q2;	**6 QKt - Q2, P - B4**
7 P - QKt3, P - KKt3	

Taken together Black's last two moves suggest too ambitious an approach. 7 ... B - K2 would have avoided the coming troubles on the KB1 - QRb diagonal.

8 0 - 0, B - Kt2;	**9 B - R3, P - Kt3**
10 BP x P, Kt x P;	**11 Kt - K4, 0 - 0**
12 R - B1, P - B4;	**13 Kt - Q6, Q - K2**
14 Kt x B, QR x Kt;	**15 R - K1, K - R1**
16 P - K4, P x KP;	**17 B x KP, Kt - B5**
18 R - B2, Q - B3;	**19 P x P, Kt x BP**
20 B x Kt, P x B	

White's positional pressure has been transformed into a permanent advantage. Black has serious pawn weaknesses.

21 R - B4, Q - Kt7;	**22 Q - B2, Q x Q**
23 B x Q, B - Q5;	**24 K - B1, P - K4**
25 B - K4, K - Kt2;	**26 R - B2, QR - Q1**
27 P - Kt3, Kt - Q4	

Perhaps Black should have tried to keep his Knight on the board in order to protect the weakened white squares.

28 B x Kt, R x B;	**29 K - Kt2, K - B3**
30 Kt - Q2, R - QKt1;	**31 Kt - B4, R - Kt5**
32 R - Q2, R - Kt2?	

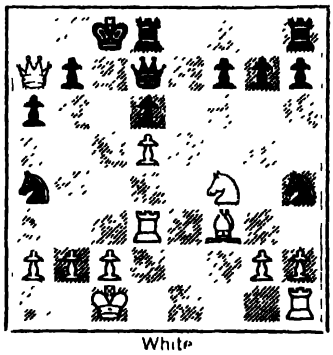
This loses at once. On the other hand, it is hard to find a reasonable alternative.

33 Kt - K3, R(Q4) - Q2; 34 Kt - Kt4ch, K - B4
35 R x B!, Resigns

If the Rook is captured it is mate in two.

Competition G485. Solution next week.

Black



White

White to play and win. Grade 4 (hard). Prizes of £10 for the first three correct solutions. Send yours, on a *postcard* to Chess Competition G485, *The Sunday Times*, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9Y1, by July 4.

Solution to G484 (Rogoff - Portisch, Biel, 1976). (5rk1/1pp1R1p1/p2p1rq1/P2P3p/1P1P4/6Rb/5P1P/4Q1KB - Black to play.) The Hungarian grandmaster produced the pretty thrust 32 ... P - R5!, and after 33 R x KtPch (also quite hopeless was 33 R x Q, R x Rch, 34 B - Kt2, R x Bch, 35 K - R1, R(Kt7) x BP etc.), K x R. White resigned.

Problem No 1150. Solution next week.
W. E. Perry (Second Prize, *Brooklyn Chess Chronicle*, 1886) **(2N2B2 / 4p3 / R1p5 / 3k2K1/ 2p1b1N1/2P2R2/5Q2/8 - 8 white men; 5 black).** White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to No 1149 (Barnes). (K1Bb1BQR/ 7b/R3pn2/5r1k/7p/6pN/6P1/8 - mate in two.) 1 Q x P (threat 2 Q x R). (a) 1 ... R - B8, 2 Q - B7. (b) 1 ... R - KKt4, 2 Kt - B4. (c) 1 ... Kt - Q2, 2 Q - KKt6. (d) 1 ... K - Kt3, 2 Q - K8. (e) 1 ... K - Kt5, 2 Q - K2.



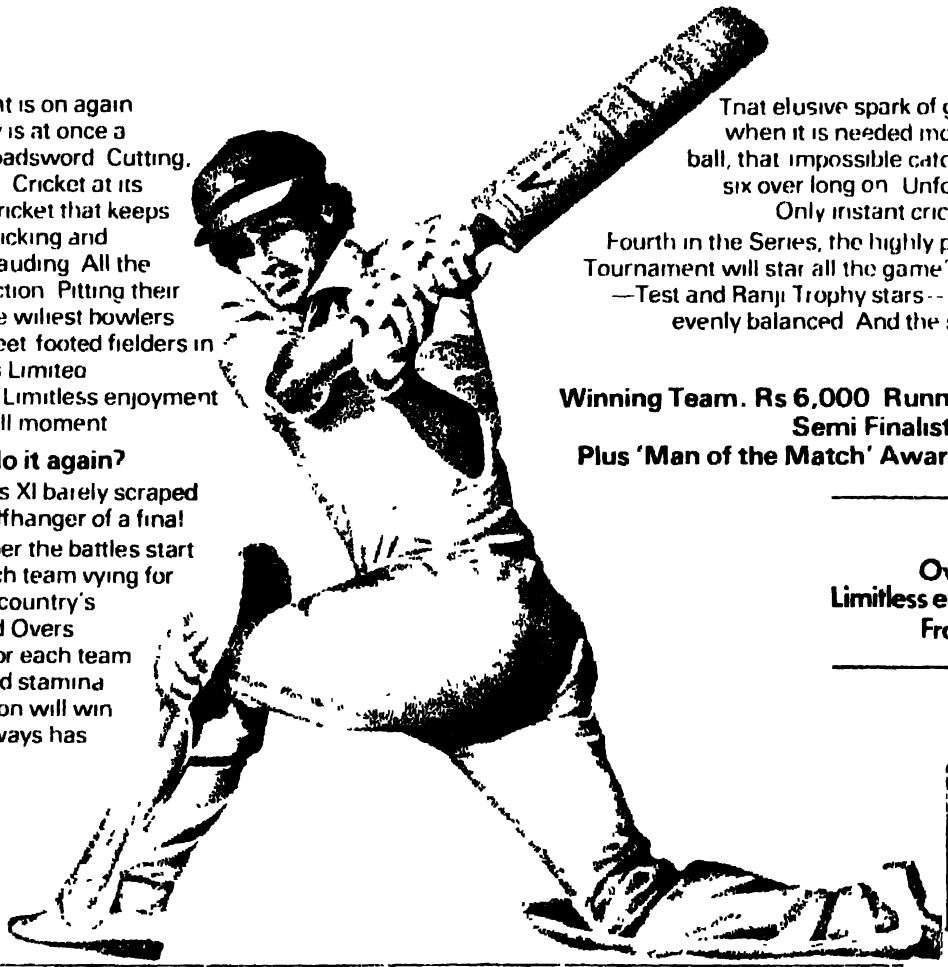
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	2	Sep 30	Nagpur	Hyderabad vs Bengal
	3	Sep 30	Jaipur	UP vs Board President's XI
Semifinals	4	Oct 1	Indore	Wills XI vs Winner of (1)
	5	Oct 2	Jaipur	Winner of (2) vs Winner of (3)
Final	6	Oct 4	Kanpur	Winner of (4) vs Winner of (5)



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Sportsworld

The paradox of Kerala sport

HOW THE ASHES WERE WON





The dilemma of promising young soccer players

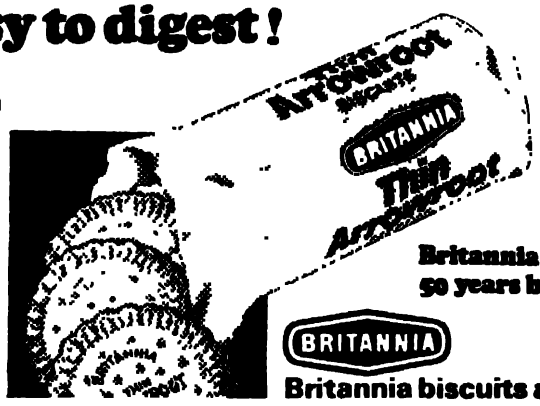
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The promising young players of the Big Three do not get adequate chances to show their capability SARAJIT DEB delves into the problems of these youngsters



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Letters to the Editor

Unsportsmanlike

IN accusing Gavaskar as the coup leader to oust Bedi from Test cricket, the latter in his interview with Wadhwaney, ("A conspiracy was hatched against me") has succeeded only in making a loud noise and nothing else He could not answer the question—"Did Gavaskar get Bedi axed?"

Firstly, the contention that Bedi was forced out of the team when he still had plenty of guile left in him is open to question We can remember how in 1975 the last wicket of Sri Lanka pair--David Heyn and Daya Sahabandu—frustrated the efforts of the Indian trio which included Bedi, for over two sessions of a day's play in Hyderabad

Then again, during the 1976 series against England, Bedi spent himself bowling mammoth stints without making much impact Finally, we had the bitter experience of getting routed at the hands of the Pakistanis, whom the Indian bowlers led by captain Bedi could not bowl out even once The Pakistanis simply annihilated the Indian spinners with Bedi being the principal casualty

Unable to improve his game, Bedi put up a poor show again in 1978/79 against the West Indians on their tour of India. Later in the season, an injury put him out of domestic cricket When he recovered, he still proved ineffective in the Ranji matches

Yet he was chosen for the England tour in 1979 The interviewer has given Bedi's "fairly successful" bowling figures of the entire tour but shrewdly refrained from quoting that Bedi's Test performances gave him a meagre seven wickets in three Tests So when it was proved a second time that the once-great spinner had become a shadow of his previous self it was certain that he would have to make way for someone else One fails to understand how his exclusion from the team on returning home can be considered as shabby treatment to Bedi

The writer also states that Gavaskar was uneasy in the company of senior players. If this is true, then how is it that Prasanna, the seniormost player of the 1976 Indian team that toured New Zealand, felt thoroughly happy with Gavaskar as the stand-in skipper at Auckland? Prasanna wrote in his autobiography that Gavaskar handled him and others like Chandrashekhar and Venkatraghavan with respect and won the match by sheer team spirit

Wadhwaney goes even further to say that Gavaskar "stabbed Bedi in the back" though he does not seem to have even a shred of evidence to prove his allegation

In fact, instead of highlighting the memorable spots of Bedi's truly glorious career, Mr Wadhwaney has turned what should have been a farewell tribute to Bedi into an unsavoury piece of journalism.

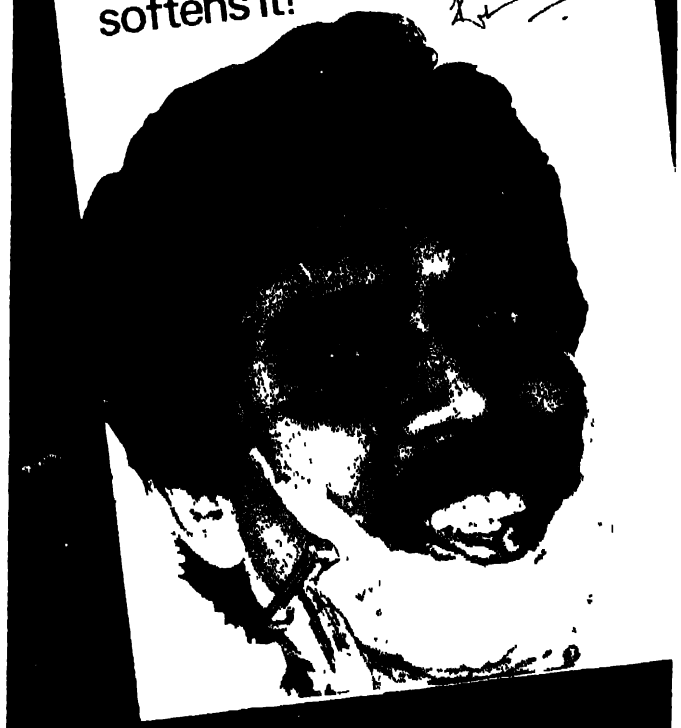
S D MULYE,
Bombay.

BISHAN BEDI's interview with K R Wadhwaney was very interesting but at the same time made very painful reading Interesting it obviously was, but painful because it gave graphic details of the sufferings of a gallant and talented cricketer like Bedi who has done so much for the cause of Indian cricket He was a fighter--supreme both on and off the cricket ground--where he took it upon himself to protect the professional interests of his fellow players It was under his leadership that team-spirit was developed in Indian cricket and that the national eleven started playing as a team instead of a mere collection of 11 individuals

Unfortunately, it was his zeal to fight against injustice that led him to conflict with every single authority he had to deal with—the County of Northamptonshire, the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Delhi and District Cricket Association

However, it is most unbecoming of a player of Bedi's stature to hit out at his

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colleagues even if his grievances are sometimes genuine. This is likely to destroy the very edifice of team spirit which he did so much to build up. Every genuine sports-lover would wish that retired and eminent cricketers like Bishan Bedi would refrain from damaging the cause of cricket in India by indulging in personal attacks, which at times come close to mud-slinging.

R K KHANDELWAL, New Delhi

Worthwhile?

THE observations of former Olympians, Chuni Goswami and P K. Banerjee regarding the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal match were worth reading While PK rates Xavier Pius, who scored the winning goal, as the most dangerous forward in the country, Chuni thinks that he is a player who hardly mispasses A real tribute to a good player who has improved a lot and has been called to do duty for the country for the Merdeka Tournament

PK, a good coach and a keen observer of the game, by way of conclusion feels that the standard of Indian football leaves much to be desired and adds that every third pass is a mispass This is indeed a sad commentary on our soccer

K V ANANTHAKRISHNAN, Trivandrum.

APROPOS of Chuni Goswami's article on the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal League tie, I have a couple of observations to make In clubbing Majid with Surajit Sengupta, Md. Habib, Sudhir Karmakar and Shyam Thapa, he has revealed his sheer ignorance about the Iranian's age Mr Goswami, has in the past, spoken deprecatingly of Majid in an article published in your weekly. Majid's calibre or the lack of it, may be commented on by the erstwhile superstar, but the former's age is incontrovertible.

Secondly, he puts Subrata Bhattacharya "miles ahead" of Monoranjan Bhattacharya in positional play One has to swallow this with more than a pinch of salt. Monoranjan has been striding the Calcutta Maidan like a colossus

CHIRANJIT BANERJEE, Darjeeling.

IT is high time the officials of East Bengal realise that matches cannot be won with the help of outstation players They should start thinking at once about the local players they will take on next year. Outstation players do not feel for the side and they have the audacity to insult the coach They should be sacked at once.

SHYAMAL BHATTACHARYA, Nagpur

CONGRATULATIONS to the players of Port Trust and especially Shekhar Chakravarty, who scored the goal that helped his team win against East Bengal. They really deserve praise for their efforts

DIPAK KUMAR MRIDHA, 24-Parganas

True?

RON HENDRICKS' article in the July 1 issue may not be liked by many but what he has indicated is the truth Mr Ullal Rao is the best starter, at present, in the country I have run under him as an athlete and have been associated with him as an official since 1971. He is the founder of the Athletic Official Board, India, which has more than 400 active qualified officials as members and which unfortunately, has yet to be recognised by the parent body, AAFI This board was formed with a view to assist the AAFI for conducting National Championships

K C PARIJA, Jt. Secretary, AOB

RON HENDRICKS' assessment of athletes as starters in India is very wrong and he has unnecessarily given undeserving importance to Ullal Rao of Bombay, the reason being that he comes from Bombay also.

The position of the starter in athletics is very technical in nature and requires expert opinion The forerunners in starting are the late Dr Hawards along with A. C. Das, Jal Pardiwala, A B Krishnaswamy and S Alfred. According to Pardiwala, the starters of merit at present are D Dev, Amiya Mukherjee, Shehney and Karunakar. Please do not influence the AAFI or the Asian Games Committee with statements that are far from true.

Z. IRANI, Bombay.

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

TACT AND GRACE

Norfolk: It's easier to teach Russian to an American or English to a Russian than to explain to either what happens in a game of cricket. Now that the Aussies are in England all kinds of anecdotes are making the rounds. The tourists' first game was the traditional 'garden party' fête at picturesque Arundel against an English side raised by Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk whose late husband loved the game ardently. Once while he was batting, his butler served as umpire. The old duke was run out by a mile and the butler had to give his decision to the now narroweyed Duke. There was a deatnly pause till he took a deep breath and announced in customary fashion. "His Grace is not in"!

HIS WICKET WAYS

London: The arrival of the Australian Test side in England raised the temperature of novelist broadcaster Melvyn Bragg who admits that the lust to beat the Pommies bites in very deeply. His involvement embarrassed him no end on a previous Australian tour of England. After England was defeated, Bragg had a round of drinks with some friends and later went for a movie with his wife, which he slept through. When his wife prodded him awake, he shouted to the hushed audience. 'Bloody Aussies!"

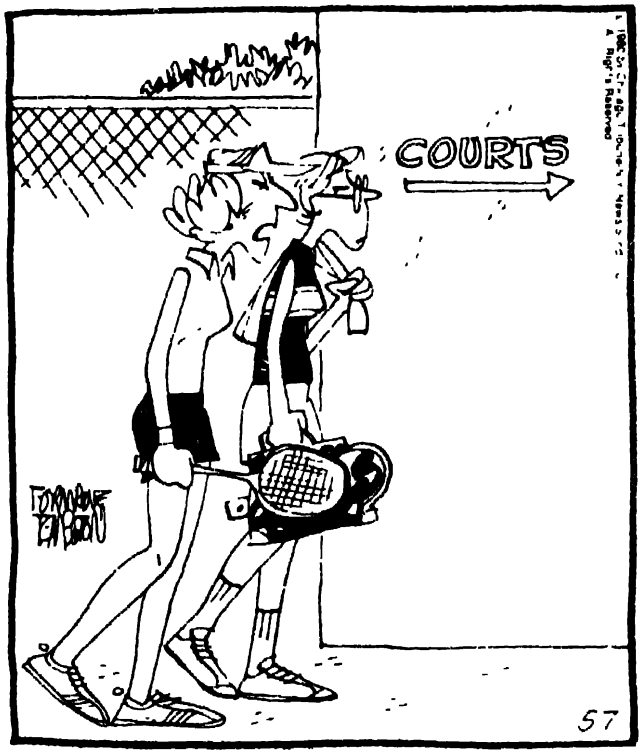
HEADING FOR A HIT

Hamburg. Soccer idol Kevin Keegan has made his first popular record and it's gone to his head. The striker's new goal (gold?) is to score a chart buster which would be a pretty fancy feat for the maestro of fancy footwork. But Keegan who's always on song for his club Hamburg knows his show biz career could well take an early bath.

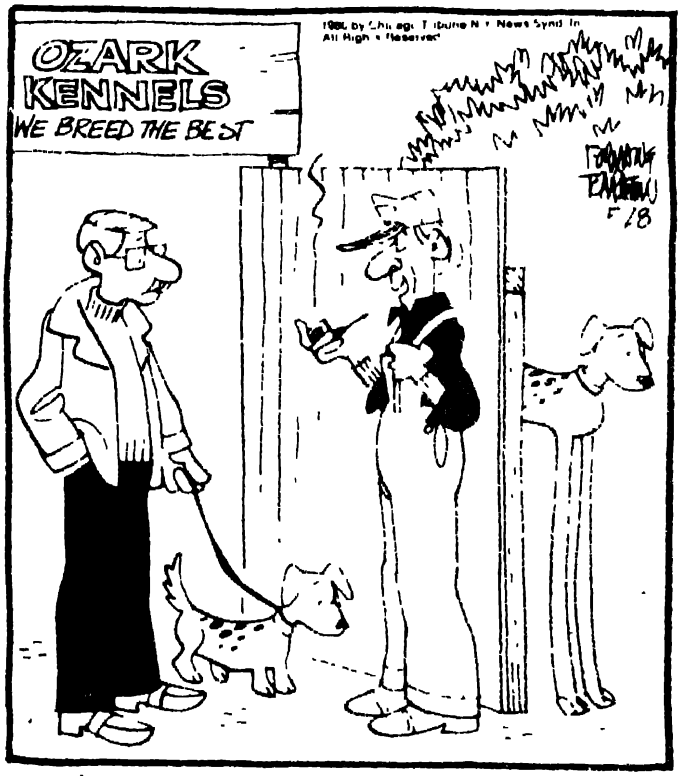
B. TELLIS



"WE JUST GOTTA GET SOME RELIEF PITCHING."



"MY FIRST HUSBAND COULDN'T SERVE, MY SECOND HUSBAND DIDN'T HAVE A NET GAME, AND MY PRESENT HUSBAND HAS A HORRIBLE BACKHAND! I MAY NEVER WIN THE MARRIED COUPLES TOURNAMENT!"



"AH JUST MIGHT HAVE WHAT Y'ALL LOOKIN' FOR..."

The paradox of Kerala sport

ASHOK KAMATH

If one were to nominate the most 'sports conscious' state in the country today the vote would go to the state of Kerala. One bases this observation on two empiric parameters. One the level of participant involvement in sports and, two, the degree of spectator interest in sports.

While it may be difficult, if not impossible, to compute the participant involvement in various sporting disciplines in Kerala and compare it with other states, the existence of a very definite 'sports culture' is identifiable in this state this is not something that can be said of many other states in the country.

One supposes that in determining the quality and level of this nebulous concept called sports culture, one has to go by pointers such as the generally high attendance at sports meets held in Kerala from time to time and also its reflection in the coverage accorded to sports in the mass media of the Malayalam language.

It is my personal (and perhaps very limited) observation that the coverage of sports events and sportsmen in the vernacular dailies and magazines of this state is far better than that in many other states. West Bengal is probably one state which would run Kerala close on this score, but even there, the readership interest is confined to Calcutta in the main and, semi-urban areas of that state, unlike Kerala.

Again, the average attendance at, say a national level athletic competition in Palai or Quilon or any other sub-urban part of Kerala state is much, much, higher than that witnessed in many other state capitals, leave alone moffusil centres. This is certainly one pointer to the high level of sports consciousness in this state. It may be worth recalling that to date no senior national (Santosh Trophy) football tournament, not even the ones held in Calcutta, has drawn the aggregate attendance witnessed at the Calcutta nationals four years ago.

One is reminded of a tongue-in cheek comment made by a Trivandrumite recently: "The average Keralite is so interested in sports that even if two chaps were to pick up a fight on this street corner within a matter of minutes they will attract a large crowd of interested spectators in anticipation of the sheer vicarious thrill of watching a bareknuckled boxing contest." A mildly rhetoric surmise but not very wide off the mark, this one.

Sports in Kerala – both in terms of participant and spectator interest has generally followed two definite patterns one has been the high popularity of sport in two of its most pristine forms, namely, athletics and aquatics, and conversely, the relative unpopularity of three non Olympic sports, namely, cricket tennis and table tennis.

Sharing the popularity charts with athletics and aquatics are, not necessarily in this order, football, volleyball and basketball. Here again, the 'non elitist' trend runs through these three disciplines. The relative "distaste" (if one may be permitted to use that term) for elitist sports like cricket tennis and table tennis only reflects the earthiness of sports in Kerala as does the predilection for basic sports-forms like athletics and aquatics.

For the last few years, Kerala has been producing promising swimmers who have made a name in the national scene. To name a few, there is Wilson Cherian, who holds a national record in the backstroke event. Then come G Babu and Madhavadas. The women too are coming up, but are yet to make dent in the national scene.

One logical extension of this phenomenon of well being at the sub-junior and junior levels would have been improved performances at the senior level over the years. But this has not exactly been the case in Kerala's case. And this is one of the great paradoxes of Kerala sports today. Why is there a gap between early potential of some of its juvenile sportsboys and girls and their eventual realisation upon graduating to the senior ranks? Why is the infant mortality and drop-out rate so high vis-a-vis Kerala's sportspeople? This is the great paradox of Kerala sports today.

On a recent visit to Trivandrum we discovered that a certain amount of rethinking and introspection have



Sprint coach Nambiar with P T Usha (on the coach's right) and Sreekumari Amma (extreme left) at the women's Asiad camp at Hyderabad

SUNIL MALHOTRA



The Kerala quartet at the Delhi Open (from left) M T Mary, Valsamma, Shiny Abraham and Mercy Mathew

[illegible] regard to this paradox. A project sports medicine unit [illegible] taking shape and has brought forth its [illegible] three [illegible] questions [illegible] gap between [illegible] performances and that at the [illegible] level [illegible] the superiority of Kerala sportswomen at the all India level compared to that of her sportsmen [illegible] the excellence in certain items like sprint ramps and skill events and conversely the lack of a dynamic breakthrough in other events.

The above three points form the basis of a pilot project of study by the recently formed Kerala State Association of Sports Medicine (KSASM) and sidelined by [illegible] this is another interesting project involving the evaluation of physiological, psychological and environmental factors related to the trainees of the G V Raja Sports School and the sports division of swimming at Trivandrum.

SPEAKING to a set of Kerala State Sports Council coaches in Trivandrum, one got a rather alarming picture about certain dangerous trends in Kerala sports today. One is this craze to produce champions overnight. With almost Rs 68 lakhs being pumped into Kerala sports annually via the sports council, everyone is concerned about showing instant results. And the coaches one spoke to honestly confessed that the pressure to 'show results' has given birth to a new set of precocious sportschildren who appear on the horizon like meteors and disappear in the same fashion.

This is reflected in the relative good showing at the junior level and the relative absence of it at the senior level.

It will not be fair to name the coaches in question but some of their views are worth considering. Said one coach, "You see we have this problem of having to turn out instant champions. When I train a set of kids under the G V Raja Sports School scheme and they get beaten by one of the local schools, the question I am invariably asked is 'How were your wards beaten?' Therefore, it is natural that the average coach goes in for heavy loads for his trainees. I hate to say this but the fact is that in the process we are spoiling these young boys and girls by overworking them."

"The coach singlemindedly believes that the young boys and girls under his charge must achieve top level performances in the shortest possible time and he therefore overdoes the work schedules. The net result is that we have young boys and girls who shoot into national prominence suddenly and because they 'peak' early, they fade out fast. Thus in terms of gradually building up our sportskids within their limitations of age physical and mental structure, we are trying to produce whiz kids.

"Nowhere is this phenomenon so acute as it is in Kerala. This is the same thing that is happening in a country like East Germany. In international competitions you suddenly hear, of teenage athletic superstars, swimming superstars, gymnastic superstars, but their [illegible] because they peaked too early.

Another coach explained this 'overwork' syndrome in terms of the weight training being imparted to sub-15 year-olds. Sports medicine experts have proved that too much weight training at early ages can have very very harmful effects. The full squat for example, is overdone by over-enthusiastic coaches.

Any exercise with a load which involves flexing of the knee to more than a 90 degree angle leads to arthritis according to Dr Mall who surely knows his onions. Bizarre stories that filtered out of Hitler's infamous Nazi concentration camps speak of an illegal technique employed to destroy the knees of hapless victims.

MUCH rethinking has also been done with regard to the functioning of the much talked about G V Raja Sports School in Trivandrum. Coaches attached to the Kerala Sports Council and deputed to the G V Raja Sports School are not exactly happy about the way it is functioning.

In 1975, when the sports school was started, trainees were selected for five disciplines (boys and girls)—athletics, basketball, volleyball, hockey and shuttle badminton and the sanctioned capacity of 60 seats for boys and half that number for girls were filled even though some of the applicants were not up to the mark.

Of late, more discretion has been applied in the selection procedure and as a result, last year only half the sanctioned number of seats were fil-

sufficient numbers of trainees

It is a moot question whether a sports school like the one at Trivandrum is truly practicable Even though, on paper at least, the sports school scheme should attract the best of Kerala's young talents, in reality it has not The free boarding/lodging, academic instruction has not proved a strong enough bait to lure the cream of district and school level performers in the State

Coaches involved with the sports school opined that the main reason for poor quality of applicants is that parents are indifferent to the idea of their children taking to sports at the ostensible cost of their studies Even though academics form an integral part of the sports school's curriculum, parents generally would like to see their sons and daughters become engineers or doctors and only secondarily, first rate sportstars rather than first-rate sports men women only

Another reason identified is that physical instructors in various schools would like to retain there best sports me" for the narrow minded objective of winning school level competitions rather than send them to the sports school for specialised training

Over the past few years quite a number of women have come into the national limelight in athletics and aquatics Relatively speaking, they have done much better than the men from the State Efforts are under way to determine the whys and the wherefores of the phenomenon

The question involved does not have a sexist basis as one might seem to think There is no such thing as why Kerala's women are doing better than the men, rather, the question being asked is that if the State's women stars can do so well, in spite of themselves and social hangups, why can the men not do equally well given the same infrastructure, training methods and encouragement

Part of the answer to that question comes from the basic attitude of the average Malayalee woman itself It is not far-fetched to generalise and say that the average Kerala woman is far less inhibited than her sisters in many other States (It is for the social scientists to determine whether this has anything to do with the existence of the matriarchal system of Kerala society)

Taking part in sports, unisex sports, is about the most natural thing for her She does not suffer from societal and home front psychological hangups I am reminded of a particular observation I made during a South Zone inter university volleyball championship I witnessed in Madras some years ago Calicut University was playing Madras University and one of the things that struck me immediately was that while the Calicut girls turned out on court smartly dressed in the eminently funtional unisex 'shorts', the Madras girls stuck to the 'feminine' short skirts One of the fallouts was every time a Madras girl went up at the net to effect a spike, one arm would go for the ball while the other would be employed to make her billowing short skirt behave properly. Not only were these girls psychologically inhibited but physically too

The impact of a section of the crowd watching this match on the contestants was also interesting Despite the catcalls and wolf whistles when the "leg showing" Calicut girls took court, they ignored the jeers and settled down to play their game. But the Madras girls' ballooning skirts "instigated" the jeerers and as a result they came up against a big psychological block and this told on their game The point one is trying to drive home via this story is that the average Keralite woman is more liberated than her sisters in many other parts of the country and this is reflected in some of their excellent performances in national level sports competitions



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Wilson Cherian—Kerala's backstroke expert

THE domination of Kerala girls in athletics today is remarkable At the last inter universities championship at Gwalior,it was they who held sway The overall women's champions was the Kerala University team and the second place went to the girls from Calicut University Eighteen-year-old Sreekumari Amma (of Calicut University) was the sprint double queen. winning both the short sprints in record time She became the first woman to clock a sub-12 seconds timing at the university level 100 metres

Some of the promising sprinters who surfaced at this meet include sprinters Shirley Verghese and Lissy Verghese and among the throwing events the names of Philomena Thomas (short putt) and Jolly Thomas (javelin) come to mind Both these girls were placed second and one should be hearing a lot about them in the near future Then there is this young penthathlete Beena Sebastian who holds out a lot of promise.

Coming to the last inter-State meet at Bangalore, who can forget the performance of P. T Usha and M D Valsamma? If Usha was the sprint queen and the fastest woman in the country today, Valsamma, till then a non-entity, covered herself with glory, winning five gold medals in all—400 metres, 400m hurdles, 100m hurdles and the two relays Valsamma was the individual women's champ and there was the under-16 girls Sani Joseph (100 and 200m gold medallist)

Then there was a grand record-establishing performance by Mercy Mathew (5.91m) in the long jump with teammate Molly taking the second position The sub-16 years girls' 800 metres gold medallist finished third in the women's 800m event which speaks volumes of her potential The list can go on but it suffices in the present context of recalling some of the top-drawer performances by Kerala sportswomen

With all this, there is still something lacking It will be worth monitoring the performances of Kerala's young sportspeople and finding out why the drop-out rate is so high Kerala in recent years has had very good junior level footballers In fact, her sub-junior boys shared the National title with Assam in Madras this year and the junior boys were finalists (losing to Goa) in the Junior National at Ernakulam Will these boys mature to become a champion outfit at the senior level five years hence? If the past is any indication this is quite doubtful And this, as one said earlier, is the great paradox of Kerala sports

With an annual budget of Rs 68 lakhs, the Kerala Sports Council covers each of the 12 districts in the State There are 102 KSC appointed coaches, seven deputed from the N I S. and another seven voluntary coaches But there appears to be a sad lack of co-ordination between the various bodies promoting sport in the State, if one goes by what some of the coaches feel

As one of them told us "You see, there are various bodies pulling in different directions and the absence of an apex body to co ordinate all efforts is felt acutely For example, the G V Raja Sport School is run by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) The coaches, though, are supplied by the sports council There is an acute lack of communication between the KSC and the DPI and no one really knows who he is answerable to Then there is the University Sports Board which is a law unto itself and the various sports federations who are also laws unto themselves There is too much duplication of work, clashing of calendars of sports competitions and generally things are allowed to drift What is needed is an all-powerful controlling body at the apex of the pyramid—a body like a sports directorate This is something Kerala State needs very badly.

Wise words, these.

Like it or lump it

Ron Hendricks

AUTHORITARIANISM is out of fashion. It has no place in the administration of any sport The view that everyone has the right to a say in how his group is run is matched by the idea that each has a responsibility to see that it is well run Mutual motivation is essential for success.

The reconstituted Indian Hockey Federation, as readers of this column may or may not know, hinted at a dictatorial bias when it allowed its unanimously elected president, Inder Mohan Mahajan, to select his own team On paper, it would appear that the electorate abdicated the right of exercising its franchise In actual fact, the office-bearers were chosen through consensus, an old Kamraj gimmick

Unfortunately, Mahajan, who has a good background to the game and its administration, has been so impressed by the autocratic Ashwini Kumar style of functioning that he is not prepared to adopt anything short of a totalitarian posture Some of his fellow office-bearers have been needled by his imperious decisions. That is not surprising

There were signs, as readers of this column may or may not know, that the hand-picked IHF team was cracking at the seams Mahajan had not descended from the mountains with the stone tablets to impose Mosaic law upon the constituents of his federation The programme he has fashioned is not a precise blueprint or a panacea to propel Indian hockey towards a more secure and balanced future If anything, the preparation of the national representative side for the fifth World Cup in Bombay is drifting towards chaos

But Mahajan knows how to ride stormy seas. He is the master of the IHF main He marshalled his resources cleverly at the IHF Executive meeting in New Delhi His principal detractor, Phalguni Matilal (Railway Sports Control Board), gunning for a showdown on the presidential abuse of democratic norms and principles, was isolated.

Matilal wore a hang-dog expression, my spies—and I have the little blighters everywhere—tell me. His staunch supporter, Kartar Singh, whom the IHF has agreed to pay Rs 15,000 towards a to-be processed claim of Rs 40,000, had other fish to fry He was not on hand when Matilal needed him most Of course, Kartar is all too conscious of the fact that vote-collecting is an essential part of Mahajan's mandarin nature.

The situation called for the middle-of-the-road diplomacy of compromise A change in the personnel of the treasurership—and Prof. Gursewak Singh, my spies posted in North India tell me, was waiting in the wings to return to an office he adorned during averted There was a good deal of plain speaking, man to-man stuff while healthy teeth bit into tandoored drumsticks But we will soon find out if the executive has managed to clip Mahajan's autocratic wings Pray, don't go into a flap bothering about it

An eight-nation tour of Europe in 30 odd days That's the autumnal experience to which the Indian hockey team—and there are no real surprises in the final choice—will be exposed in its preparation for this winter's fifth World Cup The tourists will play warm-up and full-scale international matches in Russia, Poland, East Germany, West Germany, Spain, Holland and Belgium and then participate in a six nation tournament in Italy



Matilal

Our players have been trained—and are in training—on natural grass, the surface for the Bombay extravaganza which will be commemorated with the issue of special stamps, a replica of the Malaysian variety. On the European tour, they will play on astro-turf and poligras on either side of the Churchillian Iron Curtain Somebody in the federation has gone bonkers

The gap between promise and performance is inevitable It will soon show in Europe where the players will never really get a chance to settle down The folly of a terminal age applicable only to the victorious Olympic skipper, Vasudevan Baskaran, and the whims, fancies and naked prejudices of Mahajan & Co—he is the chairman of the selection committee—will soon come to the surface

There is strength in attack. But the vulnerability of the defence cannot be concealed. India, clubbed together with Poland and Kenya in one pool of the Italian tournament, should meet Italy in the other, in the final

Spain, Holland and West Germany are never easy to beat on their home grounds No miracles can be expected from the Indian tourists The Patiala trials were contaminated by a sense of artificiality, almost meaninglessness This could not mask the lack of mastery over basic skills and stunning reverses in Europe may undermine the confidence of the players Anyway, we will soon find out if the mountain of labour has produced a bunch of moles or worthy challengers for the World Cup

The Kiwi is not a cold fish To his lasting credit he has erupted with the strongest possible emotion over the Springboks' rugby tour of his islands Prime Minister Muldoon suffered from misplaced Olympic ideals His liberalism was out of context in an issue which revolved around apartheid And other New Zealand sportsmen and women will be pilloried for the foolhardiness and obduracy of their rugby union authorities

HART has got the heart of the matter. Its supporters have made valiant attempts to disrupt the controversial South African tour These will be appreciated by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) But black African opinion will not let the Kiwis off the hook Meanwhile, the Mayor of New York has got the message He will keep the Springboks out of his territory.

New Zealand's cricketers must be hopping mad Pakistan will substitute for them in the West Indies Worse is to follow The OAU will agitate for the non-participation of New Zealand in next year's Brisbane Commonwealth Games It has a very strong case in the light of the gleneagles agreement

The roof has not caved in on Asiad '82—as yet! But it won't go up over the air-conditioned swimming pool Architectural problems The advice of professionals are sought and accepted in the steel-and concrete jungle of construction But in the more sensitive area of a promotion campaign the square pegs in the round holes of the administration are in no hurry to plough a pragmatic furrow

The recent trip of the three wise men to Bangkok is amusing New Delhi's grandiose plans—and money is of no consequence—should make the emergency Games staged in Bangkok in 1970 and '78 look like a country fair And yet, our three wise men went there shopping for ideas!

One small ray of sunshine Melville D'Mello, the knowledgeable and cultured voice of India at Olympic and Asian Games, has been appointed as Adviser Publicity for Asiad '82 Will he be chocked by red tape or will he be able to persuade the organisers to buy a comprehensive Games promotion

Sportsworld Special

The boom in sports sponsorship

PALLAB MUHURY

MODERN sport has become big business today Sponsored sport with television is now the fastest growing marketing medium in the world On the international scene, motor racing gobbles up over £ 50,000,000, while lawn tennis and skiing—the other high rolling glamour sports—command the mega television audiences and big money backing

Let's begin with golf, the gentleman's game that turned professional

Golf was a rich man's game and professionals were regarded as second class citizens, doffing their caps politely at their pupils in the hope of receiving a better tip The emancipation of golfers took a long time Walter Hagen and Henry Cotton, the stars of the Thirties and Forties, were banned from entering clubhouses during competitions, and had to change their clothes in their cars

Their doughty examples however led golf to turn commercial in the Sixties It could be said that golf caught on commercially with the arrival of Arnold Palmer on the scene Here was a man who transformed what appeared a leisurely walk into the countryside into a kind of unarmed combat between man and the elements

Golf suddenly caught the eye and television viewers switched on in their millions Palmer happened to be the first person to make a million dollars from actual tournament winnings, and his income from commercial attachments was estimated to be twenty times that amount over the past twenty years

But how did he acquire such riches? Firstly, his victories captured the public imagination, secondly, he won in front of the television cameras so that even the people at home saw him win, thirdly, he exploited commercially the new venues golf created for him.

But all his efforts might have failed if Mr Mark McCormack had not come to his help McCormack now runs the largest sports management company in the world with such clients as Muhammad Ali, Bjorn Borg, Gary Player, Virginia Wade and television personalities like Michael Parkinson and Angela Rippon His International Management Group has done much to take sportsmen from the semi professional into the Hollywood-millionaire bracket

And what did this dynamic man do? He observed that golfers were underpaid for their talents and set about charging higher fees He charged golf club manufacturers more for having their clients' names on their clubs, he sold the Palmer name to clothing com

Deposed Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg Borg makes a fortune through Mark McCormack's sports management company



panies; he packaged Palmer to books, records, films and television Palmer became rich and so became McCormack

But the golf boom has declined The public has become cautious, if not suspicious, of the celebrity endorsement sell So companies now want more for their money than just the use of a famous player's name They want that player to become almost an employee

This has given rise to what is known, in marketing jargon, as a "Company Day" This is how it works A company signs a player to promote their product with the contract embodying a clause which states that the player will appear two or three times a year at a certain golf course and demonstrate his skills The company then hauls in all its big customers, wines and dines them, and then provides them a chance to learn from the great man himself This happened with Tony Jacklin after winning the United States Open Championship in 1970

Once again, Mark McCormack set up the operation and Jacklin played a full round with four different partners on each whole At the end of the day, Jacklin went up to Mark and groaned "Don't ever set up one of those for me again, I felt like a loose woman"

Whether such company days actually produce orders in the book is not kown, but they do create the right environment and could tip the scales favourably in the long run. They are certainly a good public relations exercise

This ploy works well with the low budget companies, while full-blown sponsorship of a tournament is a traditional selling weapon The benefits of this practice lie strictly in the hands of the media Every tournament receives full Press coverage, and the name of the tournament, mentioned in the sports columns of the newspapers, also receives television and radio coverage The company will receive prime time viewing with the tournament name featured as screen captions, the odd commentary mention, and of course, banners situated strategically, usually caught in full view of the camera

SPONSORSHIP of this sort is a clever way of dodging advertising costs in the above-the-line media Corporate involvement in the game has brought golf firmly into the 20th century In lawn tennis, Billie Jean King earned around £ 50,000 from 19 tournaments The same effort today would enable her to earn no less than half a million pounds—a rise that could only be made possible by money injected from outside the sport

Similarly, the ex-world champion in motor cycle racing, Barry Sheene, earned £ 40 for winning a Grand Prix in 1969 In 1980 he earned £ 350,000 from racing alone

Television and the leisure boom have gone hand in hand The world audience for Grand Prix motor racing is a staggering 800 million, surpassed only by the 1978 World Cup football audience which was well above one



PATRICK EAGAR

Willis tells Rick Darling with a vicious bumper as Graeme Wood looks on The Benson and Hedges banner -one of several- is strategically placed so as to ensure exposure on TV

billion The publicity value, therefore, is obvious What is more, with the company logo on the car and the camera concentrating on little else, the visual impact is continuous

In this rush of sponsors, it is the tobacco and drink companies in Europe and North America that remain the most enthusiastic sports sponsors So what makes modern sport such a successful selling medium? "Sponsorship begins and ends with television", says Ian Todd, vice president of promotional experts International Management Group International

Then, sport is also a great social focus and direct help for companies that depend upon a locally-based sales force Sponsorship of local golf or tennis tournaments can bring dealers into working contact with actual and potential customers

But with the rush of sponsors, the superstars have also started increasing their demands which has again created some problems The superstars' craving for money kills certain events at top class venues, because a public reared on high skills via television, will pay for little else So a tennis tournament today without McEnroe, Borg, Lendl, Mandlikova or Chris Lloyd will be poorly attended

The stars can earn more by playing meaningless exhibition matches. Although these exhibition matches are popular at present, even the media buyers are growing uneasy about the long term future of sports– tennis in particular--where "real" tournaments are substituted for love matches and the like

One of the greatest success stories of sports sponsorship is Cornhill Insurance's £ 350,000 investment in United Kingdom Test cricket It has been estimated that this increase in exposure brought Cornhill £ 15,000,000 in extra business in its first year

But, in their eagerness to make fast business, the razor blade and toiletries giants, Gillette, found themselves beating a hasty retreat from the British cricket scene As Neil Wilson sports commentator and columnist remarked in 1974 "Gordon Ross the organiser of the 10 year old Gillette Cup told a sponsorship conference at London's Hilton Hotel this year that there was not a shred of evidence that it had sold one single razor blade" After all, the reason given was they were becoming better known for cricket than razor blades

Within the sports promotion industry Gillette are criticised as "profligate" Their chairman argued that there should have been more effort to tie Gillette's cricketing activity in with their other promotional activity

JOHN PLAYER, part of the Imperial Tobacco group is another example of trying to make the golden goose lay too many eggs too soon In 1979 ,

pulled out of the Grand Prix motor racing even though its cars had just won the world championship Its £ 1,000,000 a year sponsorship had successfully helped launch Player's King Size brand in the U K but Player's marketing manager argued that this was too much to spend, since a large part of the racing exposure was outside the U. K where the brand is not on sale

On the other side is a happy Philip Morris spending over £ 1,000,000 a year on motor racing because its Marlboro brand is sold internationally

BUT sponsors can also suffer major setbacks In 1980 the United States Government paid $ 20,000,000 to businesses for the loss of money in the Moscow Olympic promotions badly hit by he American boycott In Britain too, £ 1,000,000 worth of promotion was scrapped when the Moscow Olympics became an imperfect sales vehicle

Some sports can now survive only with the help of the sponsors' kiss of life, because of their heavy promotional advertising Tennis golf and skiing have in the last two decades moved from semi professional sports to giant pastimes of the entertainment industry, whose stars are millionaires And only sponsorship has made this possible

In Grand Prix motor racing, it costs £ 50,000 each time a car appears on the grid, so every team is now in the grip of a manufacturer's support The last serious attempt to run a private team was the Lord Hesketh-James Hunt effort in 1973 Eventually this relatively successful side folded up when it failed to find a sponsor.

How does sponsorship help the world's and India's number one game—soccer?

Europe, West Germany and Belgium were among the first to have league soccer sponsored In 1973-74 F C Hamburg's team jogged out into the stadium with the Italian apertif firm—Campari's—name in blue letters on the shirts of their players

Brunswick's five-year contract with Jaeger Meister was worth £ 83,000 to the game A spokesman of the German Football Association defended this move against criticism, especially from the suspicious and insular English Football Association when he argued "We fail to see why footbalers should not advertise in this way when many others sports do so already The real reason for dropping the advertising ban is the state of finances of many clubs."

In Belgium, a number of clubs are sponsored and their players enter the field with the names of travel agencies and car ferries emblazoned on their shirts

In 1970-71, sponsorship was introdced into English football for the first time. After its introduction, Alan Hardaker, the secretary of the football league, wrote about its scope and saw a bright future for sponsorship and football. When it was agreed that sponsorship should be introduced in English soccer, it was hoped that money would come in where it was most wanted Hardaker laid down the principles of such sponshorship as

(1) The sponsor to get a fair return for his money

(2) The League and the game to benefit to the fullest extent

(3) The sepctator to be provided with an exciting form of competition

(4) Standards of dignity and administrative competence in the competition to be upheld

But cynics always maintained that modern sponsorship meant exploitation of sport and that, in the end, the individual player had no say in the matter A player could be forced by the soccer authorities to become a living signboard for wine producers, distillers and tobacco manufacturers They point out that John Player's motor racing team was lead by the Brazilian ace, Emerson Fittipaldi—ironically enough a non-smoker

According to Derek Dongan, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, the only reason a sponsor throws himself into sport is so that he or his product will show up even more clearly on the screen for the benefit of millions than on the ground for the benefit of thousands In a biting piece entitled "The Brand Name of the Game", Neil Wilson--another cynic—referred to 'Big Brother' industry pumping some £ 8,000,000 of its advertising budget into sport Soccer appeared to be the last to resist the kill As a sponsor condescended "Even the FA Cup could soon be sponsored if the price was right, say, about a million pounds."

But even the English cynics admit that the Texaco Cup was a great success Says Dougan, "I would like to say from experience that so far as English and Scottish clubs are concerned, this competition has aroused greater interest and brought bigger gates than some matches against European clubs"

FOR a century British soccer remained a poor cousin to American and Canadian football, just as it remains a poor cousin to Australian football and Rugby League in Australia and to Rugby Union in New Zealand In 1973, soccer was a poor fourth to American football, baseball and ice hockey Today it is a major sport in the U S A and Canada, due to the precious dollars provided by Lamar Hunt, the Texas oil millionaire and owner of the World Championship Tennis group (WCT), along with the efforts of Phil Woosnam. (now commissioner of the North American Soccer League and ex player for Wales and Westham United) Clive Toye and Henry Kissinger.

The opening ceremony of the Moscow Olympics In Britain £1,000,000 worth of promotion was scrapped because of the Games boycott



All in all, the NASL is a striking example of spreading sport, especially soccer, via business--marketing, publicity and public relations. And the microcosm of such success can be seen in the club, Seattle Sounders.

The Seattle Sounders Soccer Club was created as recently as 1974, out of nothing and on very little capital - $ 45,000 investment by ten partners. Only three years later, the Sounders were spending $ 24,000 a year for 4,000 square feet of space downtown Seattle were playing their games in the magnificent covered stadium and had a total operating budget of over a million dollars. In 1975 they became the first club in the history of the NASL to make a profit.

The Sounders club is not a public company. It is owned by a partnership of eleven investors, all of them local businessmen some of whom are investors in other professional sports. The day to day functioning of the club is vested in the hands of general manager Jack Daley, himself the holder of a five per cent share. He is in daily contact with managing general partner Walter Dagatt. There are also regular monthly meetings that all partners attend.

A contented Daley declares: "Soccer occupies 200 per cent of my time. I enjoy it - the challenge and the pioneering - what stirred my imagination so much about soccer was that I ran into so many people who told me - 'Oh soccer - it can't be done'. Well - it can be done, soccer is happening in the U.S.A."

The Sounders have played a key role in Americanising soccer, a sport which had a European image about it. Daley emphasises: "In basketball and football, the colleges serve as farm teams for the pros and it works beautifully. But it isn't that way in soccer. We are not getting the players we need from college - they don't play enough games there. The reserve team is one answer. That way we're not throwing the Americans over their heads into the first team, and they're not spending the season sitting on the bench. They are getting good competitive experience."

Apart from a coach, assistant coach, three part-time scouts, the members of the team include a full time trainer joined on game days by as a part-time assistant, a team dentist, an internist and two orthopaedic surgeons--who give complete physical check-ups to all the players before the season begins.

If there is a key to the Sounders' success - it is simple business efficiency. "We probably have more staff than most NASL clubs, but we don't want people doing more than one major job, we want them to be effective in what they do" emphasises Daley.

The way Sounders run their administration is enviable indeed, and clubs all over the world could learn lessons from them, especially Indian soccer clubs whose business sense is almost nil.

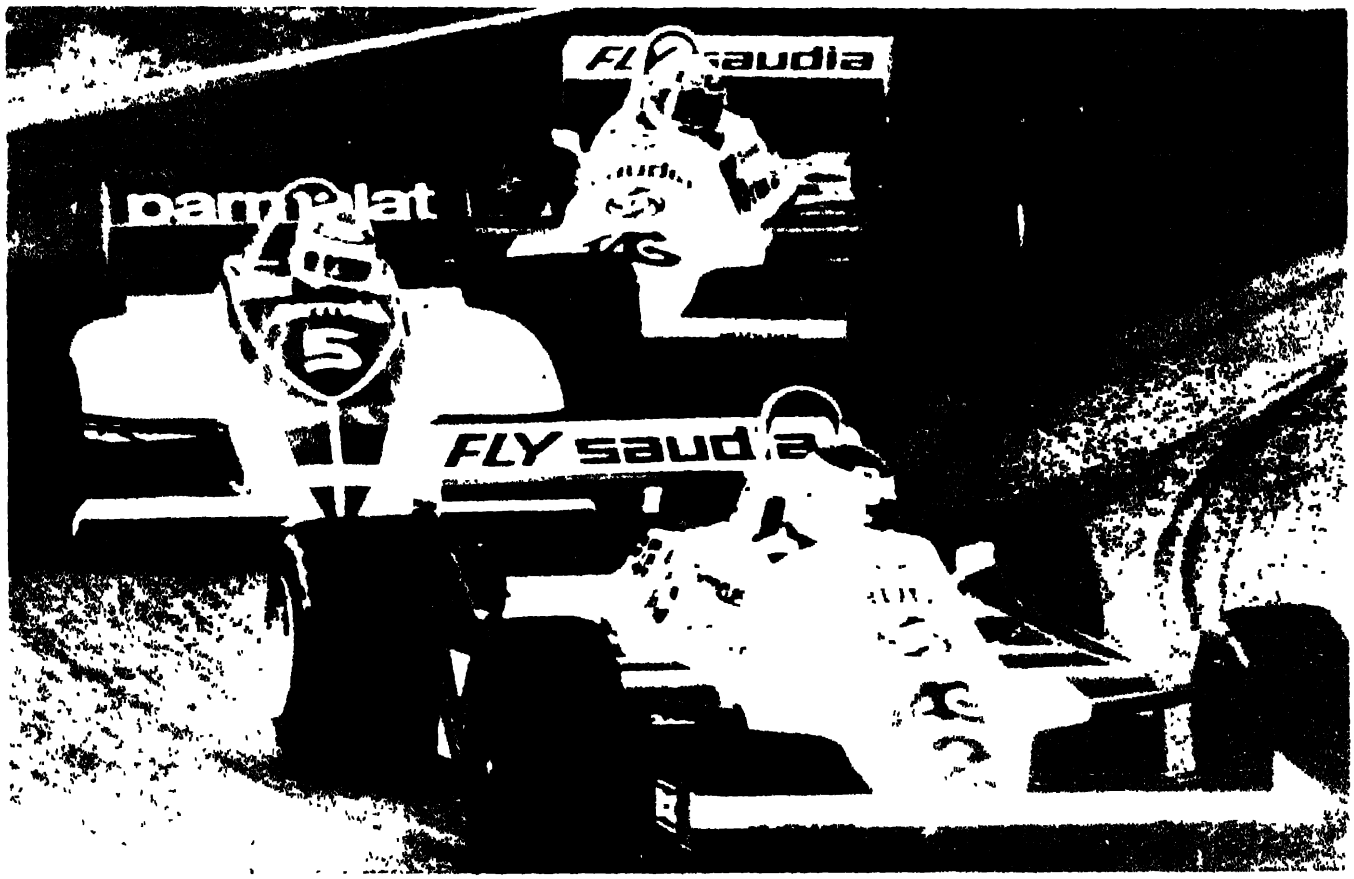
The director of marketing supervises all advertising for the Sounders, buying space in newspapers and magazines, and time on radio and television. The Sounders spend over $ 1,100 000 on advertising, concentrating particularly on radio rock stations geared to reach their young audience. The Sounders Junior Booster Pack is a special promotional device. It's a $ 20 kit that includes tickets to all 15 Sounders home games, a Sounders wind breaker jacket, a duffle bag, yearbook and membership card. "It costs us $ 43" says Daley. "It is a loss leader, but we're looking for tomorrow's fans."

Assisting the director of marketing is a public relations director, community relations director and a ticket manager - all of whom organise special radio and television programmes, game programmes and special souvenirs.

On game days the Sounders operations shift to the stadium. Each staff members has a specific role to play at the games, working alongside the stadium staff.

The need for external cash is clearly recognised in each of the major U.S. sports leagues - American football, ice hockey, baseball and soccer. And there have been clearly defined periods of expansion and contraction with movement of clubs from one city to another in order to have profitable periods that link directly to fluctuation in sponsorship cash.

Sports, like the arts, have been quite slow in responding to market forces and that merely emphasises the need for sponsors' cash. They will then inevitably be used as a sponsor's powerful and invaluable business tool.



The changing face of motor racing. Sponsors' logos are prominently displayed on the cars nowadays.

County Cricket Review

Notts back on top

ASHIS RAY reports from London

BACK to the County scene, then, and because of the recent inability to bring under purview this area, there is, naturally, plenty to catch up on For a start, the affairs of the Schweppes County Championship and the John Player League has been enjoined by significant progress in the new Natwest Trophy—successor to the Gillette Cup And in all three tournaments the issue is far from resolved, with more than one contender vying for top honours This, understandably, transforms the remaining weeks of the season into an extremely crucial phase, where indeed, one has to take stock of the weather, which, at least in the championship, could have the final say

Let's examine the situation in the three-day games, first Here, as readers will recall, Nottinghamshire were the initial front runners, but had dropped a few places since But, now, after some sterling performances from Clive Rice, Richard Hadlee, and quite frequently from Derek Randall and the off-spinner Eddie Hemmings, and aided by a bit of sunshine, they are back on top They have accumulated 208 points from 17 games, which amounts to a substantial march on their closest challengers, Sussex, who have posted 181 points from 16 outings Nowadays, each County is involved in 22 matches only and not a complete double league, which used to incorporate 32 engagements

Notts' latest success came in the shape of a thrilling victory over Worcestershire—the margin being 106 runs The winners had earned a first innings lead of 24 runs, which was further embellished by an useful second innings score of 214 for 4, in which, incidentally, John Birch was the main contributor with an unbeaten 65 Eventually, Hemmings with a return of 6 for 66 sent the opposition reeling to defeat, helped in the cause in no small measure, of course, by Hadlee capturing the first three wickets. Indeed, the New Zealander in a spell of 9 overs gave away just 17 runs for his trio of triumphs

Over the same period, Sussex notched up a handsome eight-wicket win over Kent. In this contest, the victors enjoyed the upper hand throughout, stringing together 310 for 9 in their first innings before shooting out Asif Iqbal's unit for 104. Forced to follow, Kent obtained no more than 254, which, if anything, paved the way for a "surrender" It was another good display by Ian Greig, younger brother of the loved and hated former England captain, Tony (now settled in Sydney) He is an all-rounder who bats pretty high up in the order and bowls medium pace. And in this fixture got 86 with the willow, while collecting 5 for 61 in the match This 25-year-old Cambridge graduate's showing this year is certainly indicative of brighter prospects But living under the shadow of his brother's notoriety—as Englishmen prefer to label it—his is a tougher than usual climb to the top However, quite possibly, Lord's will sooner than later reconcile themselves to his claim, and for "queen and country" give him a break

On the subject of windfalls, one such opening has, surely, come young Paul Allott's way This Lancashire medium pacer, 24 years of age had taken only 50 first class wickets before this sea-



Middlesex opener Wilfred Slack glances Warwickshire's Dilip Doshi at Lord's on the first day of the Schweppes County Championship match



Middlesex and England captain Mike Brearley edges a ball from Warwickshire's William Hogg to the slips only to be dropped during the Schweppes Championship match at Lord's

son. This summer, though, he has emerged as the highest wicket taker with 67 victims to his name at an average of 21.87. This bespectacled lad, 6 ft 4in in height and weighing 14 stones, is by no means a genuine quickie, but has impressed as a crafty mover of the ball, sending down in swingers and seaming it the other way. Allott's entry into the "big time" of course, has cropped up as a result of Chris Old's unavailability due to a knee injury. But he has been knocking on the door as it were ever since he took 8 for 48 in an innings against Northamptonshire early in the season, and so his inclusion in the England squad for the fifth Test against Australia was no real cause for surprise.

In the Natwest Trophy, the semi final line-up is almost complete. One half of the draw has Essex confronting Derbyshire, and in the other, it's Lancashire to meet either Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Thus far, Essex and Lancashire have demonstrated ebullient form, the former getting the better of Sussex in the quarter-finals and the latter striding past Hampshire. Of course, it's still a very unpredictable matter, but many feel that Keith Fletcher's handling of the match against Sussex has considerably improved his chances of leading the England squad in India. Interestingly enough, his opposite number in the tie, John Barclay, also seems to have benefited from the match as he is now being tipped as vice-captain for the trip. Barclay, an etonian, is a middle order batsman, who has led Sussex with a rare aplomb this summer, but, as in the case of Michael Brearley, there remains a distinct question mark about his batting. But then, the quest for "pedigree" still hasn't deserted the English system.

Fletcher's credibility, no doubt, has been additionally augmented by the fact that Essex are now showing the way in the John Player League, as well. Indeed, this is where they are currently the hot favourites to take the title for having played only 11 games and secured 34 points—the same as second placed Sussex's who have to their disavantage two extra outings.

The tour situation is less appealing. Sri Lanka have rounded off their visit, and happily enough, gone back with the biggest prize—an elevation to official Tests. Their's is a promising array of talent, but like most of their predecessors, they'll find the baptism to the highest level a difficult proposition. They are unlikely to get the services of the Sussex opener, Gehan Mendis, who appears to be on the verge of an England cap, and would like it that way since by virtue of retaining his British citizenship he makes sure of keeping his job with the County.

The Australians met Essex, which was the game prior to the fifth Test, but found the Australians met Essex at Chelmsford. The match was drawn, but the tourists were presented with good practice on a "turner", which is what many believe the track at Old Trafford will turn out to be. Other than that, the recurrance of Geoff Lawson's back injury after this match could not have been an encouraging thought for Kim Hughes, and Dirk Wellam's sensible exhibition with the bat, could also prove futile as the newcomer Martin Kent did reasonably well at Edgbaston and Graham Yallop is not yet ready for the chop.

Finally, Dilip Doshi, who is slowly but surely recovering his guile, surpassed himself the other day with the bat. Warwickshire were away to Middlesex, and when the Bengal spinner walked in at his customary number eleven, his side still needed 23 runs to avoid a follow on. Doshi's highest score in County cricket is 23—hit for Nottinghamshire against Hampshire in 1978—and his tally in first class games this season amounted to a princely 27. But on the particular occasion at Lord's, it was Doshi of Kanpur fame—he struck 20 against Pakistan there—and like he punished the Delhi bowlers in a Ranji Trophy match at the Eden Gardens a year and a half ago when scoring a career best 44, he danced down the wicket to Wayne Daniel and John Emburey alike to stitch together an invaluable 35 runs which saved the follow on but ultimately Warwickshire caved in by 115 runs.



Profile

Ecstasy and agony of Graham Gooch

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL profiles the man who has had little cause for personal joy, despite England's Ashes win



THEY call him Zap Officially, he is known as Graham Gooch, but to his teammates and the cricketing fraternity, the England batsman is better known by the abbreviated form of the name "Zapata"

How he acquired the nickname bears repetition On the last Ashes tour of Australia, each member of the team was required to arrive at the team party in fancy dress, according to the letter of the alphabet they picked Botham picked the letter "G" and came dressed—naturally enough—as a gorilla David Gower turned up looking suspiciously like a Roman emperor, while Gooch, who had picked the letter "Z," came dressed as the bandit Zapata

Way back in his schooldays Gooch fell in love with cricket and his passion was fostered and encouraged by two people—his father and his coach. "My father and Essex coach Bill Morris have exerted the biggest influence upon my career They have given me all the help and encouragement possible, "Gooch reminisces

His first step towards professional cricket was joining the prestigious Ilford Club By working steadily to improve his game, he found himself in the Essex Second XI and in 1969 found himself playing against Northamptonshire. But it turned out to be not a very happy experience for Gooch --"I found myself down at number eleven and did not get a bat I remember feeling more than a little peeved at the time "

In 1971, he played twice for the same team The following year he was selected for the Young England Cricketers' team which was to tour the West Indies At that time he had the additional role of reserve wicketkeeper for Andy Stovold In fact, right from his Ilford days Gooch cherished an ambition to be a wicketkeeper batsman and at one time this seemed likely to be realised when he came close to succeeding Brian Taylor, be

Gooch in action during the 1979 Prudential Cup against New Zealand at Old Trafford



PATRICK EAGAR

hind the stumps. But that was not to be and Gooch had to discard his ambition.

However, Gooch switched over to bowling medium pace and in 1973 captured 34 wickets in addition to scoring 265 runs, thereby emerging the chief architect of Essex's first-ever victory in the Second XI championship

In those days Gooch performed as a middle-order batsman, around number five to be precise In this position, however, he always had one difficulty. In his urge to gather as many runs as possible from the limited overs remaining, Gooch went for drastic shots which often resulted in his early dismissal

From this point of view, it can be said that the year 1978 truly brought Gooch to the crossroads of his career, as it saw him promoted up the order to the position of opener. That it benefited him to a considerable extent became evident before long Right at the start of the season Gooch scored two centuries in a row—the first against Kent and the other against Nottinghamshire

In fact, Gooch has never been allowed to settle into a regular berth However, it is not that Gooch was transferred from one position to another for his own sake, but often for the benefit of the teams he played for, including his country's Test side He had been made some sort of a trouble shooter batsman Whenever there was a vulnerable spot in the team, Gooch was the obvious nominee to man it —a stupendous task indeed

Yet Gooch has shouldered his responsibility without complaint "As long as I am playing, it doesn't matter What suits them suits me" True to his words, he has produced big innings from number one to number five

Coming back to his Test career, it was with Essex County that Gooch first came into prominence A scintillating century for his side--his first in the championship -against Kent flashed the message of a star's arrival on the horizon of English cricket And the selectors did not hesitate in acknowledging this arrival

That was a time when England needed new blood in the Test side and Gooch was obviously the only answer Gooch did not exactly enter the scene with a bang In fact, when he was only 21, he was included in the England side against Australia, but his debut Test turned out to be a bitter experience against the combined pace of Lillee and Thomson at Edgbaston The rain-affected wicket turned into a quagmire and Gooch came out with a dreaded pair

HE was given another chance in the next Test, but even that did not prove very fruitful Not surprisingly, therefore, he was cast aside in the next Test

It was a setback which would have proved catastrophic and possibly terminated the Test career of a player of lesser determination. This was not the



Gooch has his stumps rattled by Allan Border (not in picture) as wicketkeeper Rod Marsh yells in jubilation during the 1979 Prudential One day match against the Australians at The Oval

set about retrieving his lost glory He was recalled to the England side after having played consistently throughout the 1977 78 season as an opening batsman—a position Essex County captain Keith Fletcher determined most suitable for him

He was selected for the second Test against Pakistan at Lord's in 1978, but England were soon deep in trouble, losing two wickets only for 19 runs Despite the crisis, it was Gooch who took it upon himself to restore his side's shaken confidence Taking the bowling to pieces, he hit a defiant half century, but that was not the end of his problems Gooch soon found his place in the team under threat once again

Soon after the news that Boycott was fully fit to return to the team Gooch made a duck in the first innings of the opening Test against New Zealand at The Oval The possibility of his being dropped arose once again With Brearley firmly in the saddle as captain, could be sidelined to make room for Boycott But the Essex man was not to yield so easily He pre-empted all calculations by scoring an unbeaten 91 in the second innings of the same Test This feat also ensured his place in the side to tour Australia

There was another crisis in store for him, though In the first five Tests he did not even score a 50 Once again faced with the possibility of being dropped, Gooch made a last-ditch effort to retrieve his reputation in the final Test at Sydney and produced a dazzling 74

BACK home, Gooch had a prosperous season in 1978-79 He made spectacular half-centuries against Australia and New Zealand in the Prudential Cup, and his consistent performances brought him several awards

Against India too, Gooch put up a valiant show Twice he came close to centuries in that series—the first time at Edgbaston where he scored 83 and



Gooch, along with John Emburey and Alan Smith inspect the late Ken Barrington's practice bat, which was autographed by the entire England team and presented to Barrington's widow

dismissed for 79

Maintaining his prolific form, he hit another glittering century in the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Surrey at Lord's. Unleashing his tremendous musclepower, Gooch played an impeccable innings that rocketed him to star status. His 120 came off 140 deliveries, of which three were catapulted outside the fence for six and 11 driven with lightning speed through the midwicket region. During this season Gooch totalled almost 600 runs thereby distinguishing himself as one of the most exciting strokeplayers in the game.

For all his best efforts, though, his maiden Test century eluded him for too long a time. A determined pursuit brought him closest to it on his 33rd attempt at Melbourne. England suffered a batting collapse, but Gooch stood firm to cruise on to 99. Impatient, he tried stealing a suicidal run. As luck would have it, he was run out. However, he needed only a couple of hours' rest to get over his frustration and joke about his misfortune - "What a time to pick to make my usual deliberate mistake".

THEN came the West Indians in 1980 and England was faced with what can be rightly described as an acid test. For any batsman in the world, it becomes as much a test of courage and confidence as an examination of technique when it comes to facing the most fearsome pace battery in the history of the game. And it is even worse when the onslaught takes place on wickets not unfriendly to those whirlwind Caribbean bowlers.

But this time, Gooch was destined to prove his prowess beyond doubt. At Lord's, England came under a merciless hammering by the West Indian bowlers. The first wicket, that of Boycott, fell with only 20 runs on the board. Thereafter, it was a matter of mere entrance and exits at one end, while at the other it was a story of single handed resistance put up by Gooch.

Unperturbed by the pace of Roberts, Holding, Garner and Croft, he played with ease, driving, glancing and hooking with almost copybook precision. With Tavare, he mounted a stand of 145 for the second wicket and when Holding got him his individual score stood at 123. It was an innings he will always look back on with pride.

Gooch continued to maintain his form and hit the headlines once again during England's return visit to the West Indies this year, emerging from the tour as one of the few successful English batsmen.

In the first Test he was unable to do anything of note. With 41 runs to his credit, Gooch had his off and middle stumps uprooted by Andy Roberts. This was one of the shakiest innings Gooch ever played in his career as he himself later admitted. Croft beat him quite a number of times and at one stage he failed to make contact with five balls in succession. Moreover, he was almost caught twice at short leg and worst of all, was even bowled by Garner only to escape dismissal as the umpire signalled a no-ball.

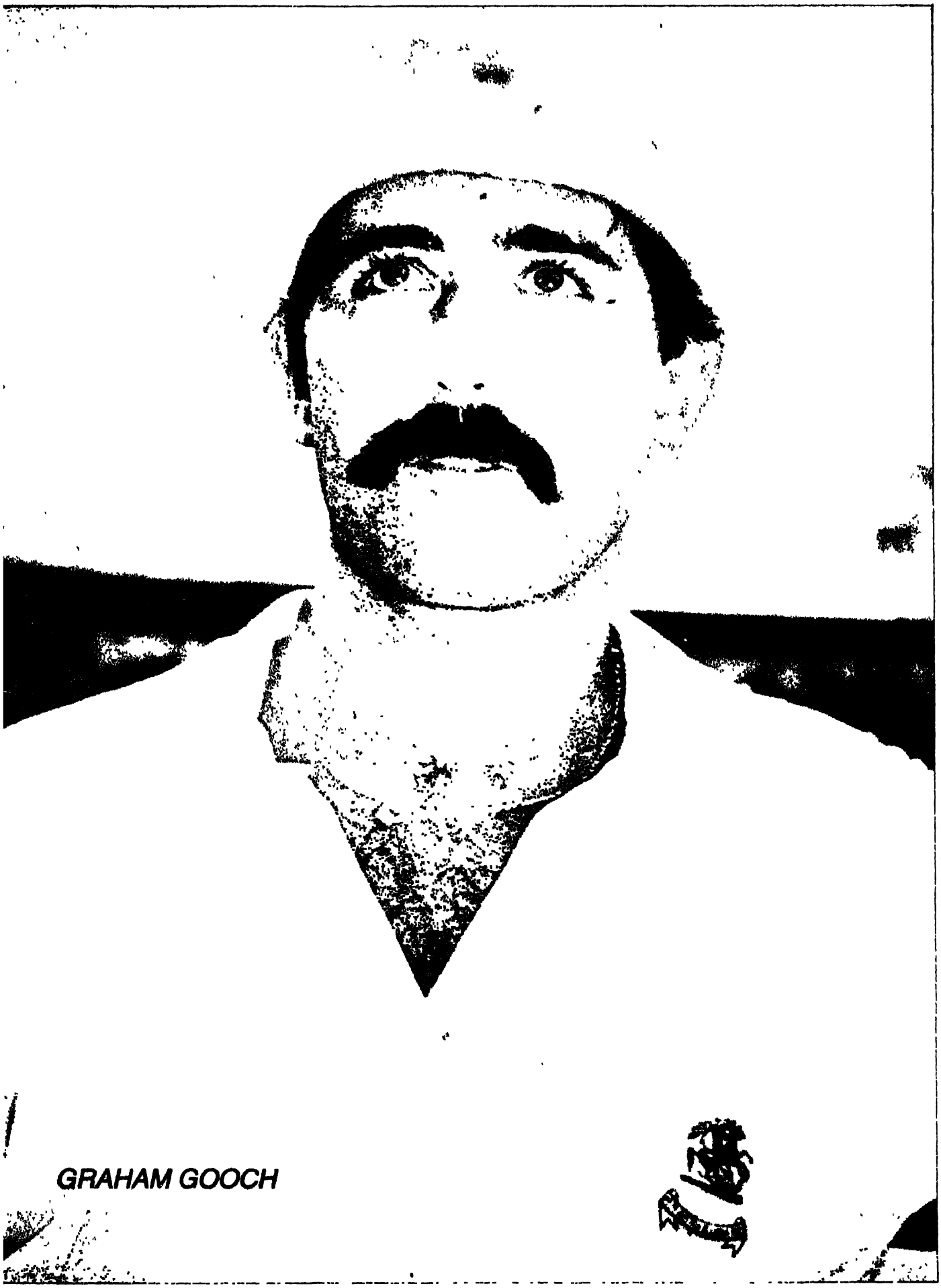
But in the third Test Gooch stood like a colossus though his side lost the match. At a time when England's defeat by a humiliating margin became a certainty, Gooch stood nonchalant, seemingly oblivious of the fate just about to befall England. After the fall of both Boycott and Mike Gatting in two successive deliveries from Holding, with only two runs on the board, Gooch and Gower put up a third wicket partnership stand of 120 runs, thereby raising England's hopes of surviving the last six hours.

England lost, but even in defeat Gooch emerged victorious. Recognition came from the most enviable quarter—the rival captain, Clive Lloyd. Within minutes of winning the third Test and the series, Lloyd said, "England could still give us trouble in the remaining two Tests. Gooch showed with this century that it is possible for England's batsmen to make runs".

But the best was yet to come. At Sabina Park, in the fifth Test, Gooch batted defiantly against a menacing Michael Holding, who in company with Malcolm Marshall, subjected England to a most harrowing time. Gooch steered his country out of total disgrace, scoring a brilliant 153—more than half his side's total of 285.

The current Ashes series, however, has been a different story altogether. Gooch has found the search for runs a difficult task, but he hasn't given up yet.

Nor is he likely to



GRAHAM GOOCH

Cover Story

How the Ashes were won

TONY LEWIS, the former England captain, reports on the fifth Test at Old Trafford

OLD TRAFFORD was significant on three counts it witnessed England retain the Ashes from a once precarious position, it saw Ian Terence Botham produce one of the greatest innings ever played, and, last but not the least, it brought to light a new record by an Australian bowler in England in the shape of Terry Alderman's tally in the series

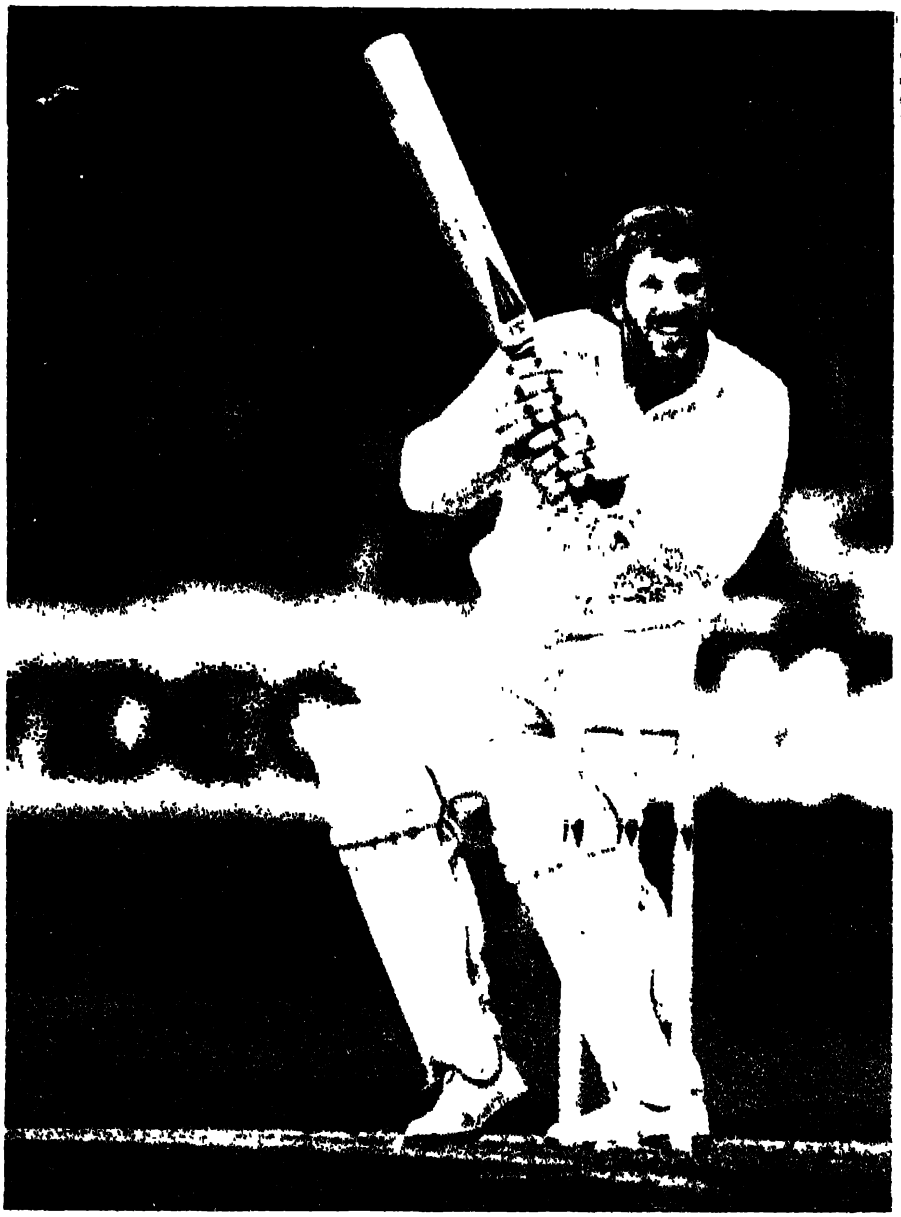
After the encounter at Lord's, England were one down with four to go, and the stocks of the selectors were at an unprecedented nadir This is when Alec Bedser and company in a fit of desperation took a step backwards They sacked Botham from the captaincy and recalled the venerable Mike Brearley Other than an innings of 48 in the first venture at Edgbaston, the Middlesex man has done very little with the bat, but he has accomplished what he was primarily assigned to do. he has won the series for England With three successive wins he has carried his country to an unassailable position, and as a reward, has been given the stewardship for the final Test Originally, he was appointed skipper for only three Tests

The battle for "the Ashes" is still the most prestigious event for English and Australian cricketers The West Indians may come and go, but the tangibility and tradition of an Anglo-Australian conflict remains unaffected in terms of its pre-eminence Indeed, such are the bindings of this clash that the hurriedly conceived three Test series in Australia a year and a half ago, was thoroughly frowned upon by purists and ultimately, at the insistence of Lord's, eradicated from the Ashes sequence Thus, England who regained the Ashes against Greg Chappell's side in 1977 (Brearley's first series as captain) and clung on to it in Australia in 1978 79, were still in possession of the trophy when the current series began All they have done, therefore, is to retain it, a goal they looked incapable of attaining at one stage

So the Cambridge Don has provided a national tonic, but he is also the toast of England for the way he has brought Botham back to life In fact, this "young lion's" showing at Old Trafford, nay the last three Tests, should, perhaps have occupied the "lead" portion of this piece But cricket being a team game, and the resolution of the Ashes, a happening to conjure with, it would, possibly, be unfair to lend precedence to individual showing

However, the knock of 118 was nothing short of an epic, and the Somerset all-rounder augmented the feat by capturing five wickets in the match and taking four extraordinary catches When Botham walked out to bat, England were 104 for five, after starting the third day at 70 for one In other words, with a relentless display of tight fielding and accurate bowling, Australia had recovered from an apparently hopeless position (they were shot out for 130 in the first innings after England had compiled 231 in their opening venture) to one from which they could well win Indeed, such was the predicament that a few in the England dressing room could bring themselves to watch the play

Botham took his time Off his first 32 balls he scored five runs and when he arrived at the crease, the new ball was due in another 17 overs And when Alderman did take it, Botham had moved up to 28 from 53 deliveries. Then, suddenly, the floodgates opened. In the next 49 balls, the chunkily-built batsman accumulated



PATRICK EAGAR

Botham in typically aggressive mood

another 90 runs Lillee's bouncers were hooked with dreadful power and precision over square leg A short one from Alderman was pulled to midwicket for six Then, reaching his century with another boundary—a sweep off Bright—he drove the same bowler over the sight screen Never before in England-Australia Tests has anyone hit six sixes in an innings And, not inappropriately, the crowd became a mass of hysteria dancing in unison and waving the Union Jack to glory

Botham's historic 149 not out at Headingley was a spectacular effort, but this was the real thing. It was more calculated, less chancy, and by no means a slog It was unforgettable The fastest hundred in Test cricket, in terms of balls received and this is the correct indicator - was by the West Indian, Roy Fredricks, at Perth in 1975 It took him 71 balls In 1902, the legendary Gilbert Jessop scored 102 against Australia at The Oval in 75 balls At Manchester, with the Ashes in the balance, Botham's hundred took 86 balls (one fewer than at Headingley) Though he went from five to 118 in 70 balls, his attack on the new ball was a mixture of awesome strength and alluring technique It is doubtful if anyone in the history of the game has hit the ball with greater force or such grandeur. It won him the man of the match award for the third time running

The transformation after twelve Tests of famine as captain is quite unique, and Brearley's role in the metamorphosis, no less sensational "We are both good for each other," Brearley said of his young lion "He needs a father figure as I need a younger brother to help me out." In this context, the influence of Bob Willis is also worth mentioning This Warwickshire fast bowler has made a splendid comeback taking 25 wickets in the series so far but to revert back to Botham, he has really left everyone aghast, as Kim Hughes remarked "He was the only difference between the two sides"

In the last two days of the Test, Graham Yallop and Allan Border (batting with a fractured finger) both reached three figures in a desperate bid to chase the impossible—506 runs for victory

In either instance, it was a skilful demonstration, and in the case of the former, a rather breezy exhibition But with the intoxication over Botham's elixir yet to subside, the focus on them was considerably distracted But at least they proved that Australia's was not as fragile a batting side as they have seemed since the second innings at Headingley It was, however, too late, and champagne corks were flying in the England balcony, and not their's.

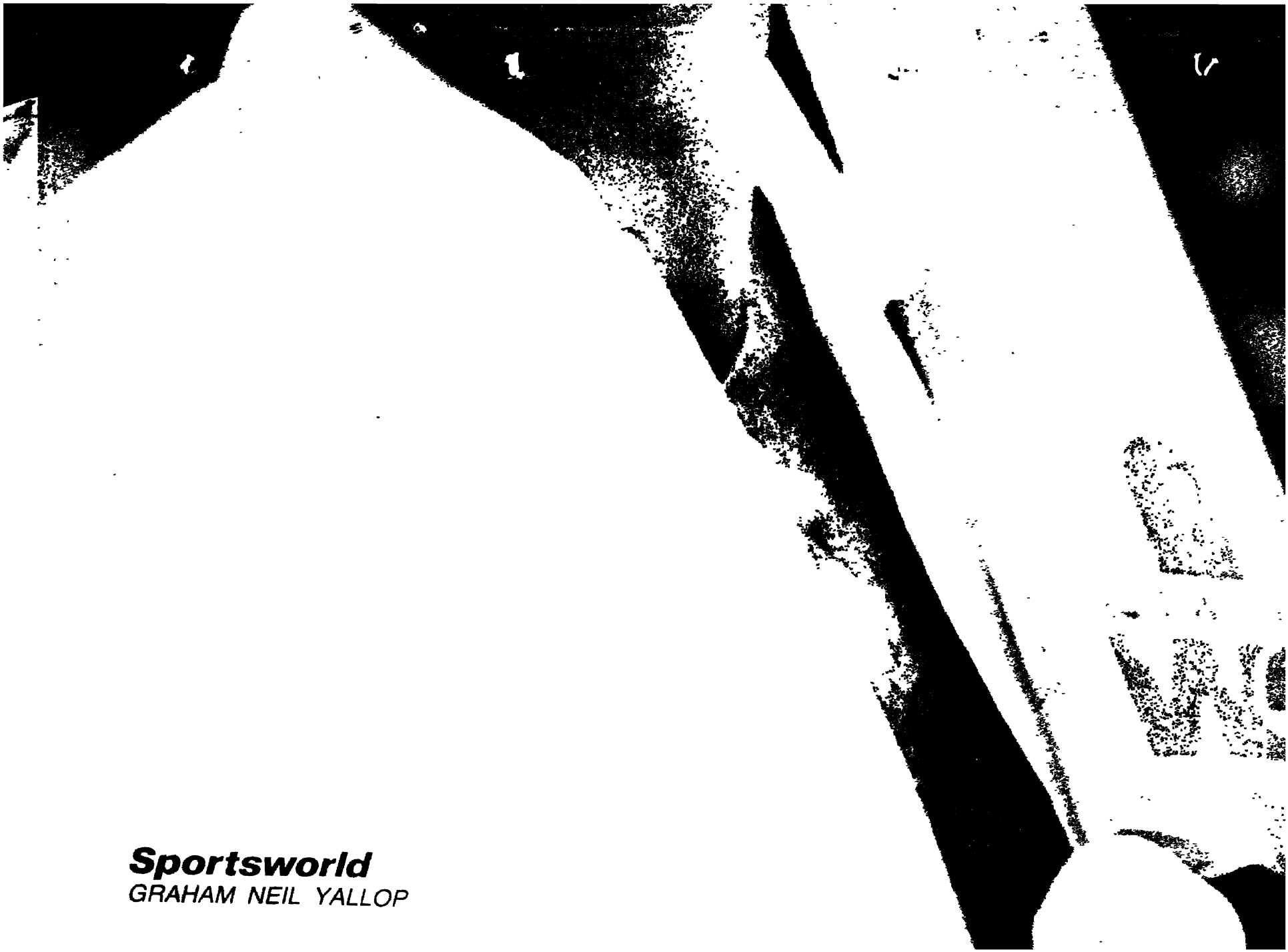
But not even Botham's pyrotechnics could erase the memory of 24-year-old Alderman's landmark It might have overshadowed it, but certainly not eclipsed it This Western Australian, playing in his maiden series, boasted a bag of 28 wickets before this match. By the end of it, he had boosted his kitty to 37—a new record for an Australian bowler in England, surpassing the distinction of 31 victims held by Denis Lillee since 1972 It's easily the most outstanding haul by anyone from the antipodes, in this country, representing, as it does, a striking rate of a wicket every 40 balls, the next best being Lillee's in 1972 and Ray Lindwall's in 1948



Knott in action during his gritty innings

Alderman, a medium pacer, with the ability to move the ball both ways, is unquestionably, the best thing that's happened to Australian cricket since the Packer crisis, and he is unlikely to fade into oblivion the way Bob Massie did Of course, it's difficult to visualise him reaping the same harvest on the hard wickets in Australia. But he is strong and full of stamina, and the experience and confidence he has gained from this tour should stand him in very good stead Indeed, by the conclusion of this series, he could well have overtaken Rodney Hogg's satchel of 41 wickets—the Australian record against England till date.





Sportsworld

GRAHAM NEIL YALLOP

SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKET

Talent thrives despite isolation

ASHIS RAY

THERE is one thing very significant about South Africa's isolation in world cricket: the Proteas has not resulted in a deterioration in their talent. Like the cast of the new generation Peter Kirsten, Allan Lamb, Ken McEwan, Clive Rice, Garth Le Roux, all exceptionally gifted despite the lack of incentive. They have virtually no hope of playing Test cricket, unless favoured with citizenship by one of the ICC member nations. Yet the ability to hold their own at the highest level is unquestionably there.

But, perhaps, the South African Cricket Union and those concerned with the future of the game in that country now feel that a continuing loneliness will sooner than later have its effect, and a reparation, then, could be beyond their control. Of course, the SACU have denied complicity with the recent attempts by South African businessmen to stage a six week tour by an international side but it's hard to believe that the clandestine negotiations were taking place without their approval. After all having been refused entry into the international fold by the ICC, they must be anxious to find an alternative route to their objective that is competition with the cream of cricketers even if it is on an unofficial plane.

Indeed their methods bear a strong similarity to the successful 'revolt' engineered by Kerry Packer in 1977. Four years ago, it was not any ideal that attracted the world's top cricketers to associate themselves with World Series Cricket but sheer money power. This time to override all argu



Peter Kirsten in action



Geoff Boycott with his wax likeness at Madame [illegible] No [illegible]

ment against playing in South Africa, an offer of £ 60,000 per player has been made, with John Edrich the England selector and an unabashed pro South Africa personality, acting as go between for David Smith a Durban based Englishman and a former Derbyshire player. The ICCB however, in keeping with the resolution passed at the last ICC meeting and as a follow up to the letter sent to all County cricketers a few weeks ago warning them about the consequences of playing in South Africa adopted a very firm attitude, reprimanding Edrich (who will be retained as selector) and issuing another caution to the players on the dangers involved in maintaining the slightest link with apartheid. In fact, among those, allegedly, approached by Edrich, Bob Willis emphatically stated that he was "Not interested" Geoff Boycott remarked "No concrete offer was made", while Derek Underwood had "no comment" to make. In Australia, the Cricket Board there has taken a view similar to the ICCB's and Greg Chappell is already on record as not being available for the trip.

So, Lord's claims 'a victory over attempted piracy' but it is most unlikely that the South Africans will rest on their oars on the basis of losing the first round. Indeed, their efforts to inject overseas talent into their domestic set up was stepped up last year when Vivian Richards was dangled the carrot in no uncertain manner. He was guaranteed a minimum of £ 1,50,000 for a three season stint which he turned down because he intends 'to return to Antigua one day and settle down there' and, therefore, would not like to go back with a stigma.

Currently, the South Africans are hoping that some of the other players, who have little or no future in Test cricket, will be induced to accept the highly lucrative payment. Undoubtedly, the money is quite staggering, and well in excess of what even Kerry Packer chose to disburse. There is already talk in English cricket circles that Boycott may be dropped for the tour of India. If that occurs, then, quite naturally he will be tempted to submit to the South African persuasion. On the same count Jeff Thomson whose chances of coming back into the Australian side are very remote, could sense in the offer a handsome reward at the end of the tunnel. But most others with a hope and aspiration to play Test cricket would, most probably spurn the overtures.

But the question is, if any of the leading lights do take the plunge, what kind of retaliatory action can the authorities contrive? If they arbitrarily drop a player for South African connections they could again be facing libel for restricting trade practices. In this context, the Commonwealth Prime Minister's conference in Melbourne in October, which is expected to re-define the Gleneagles Agreement, could be a guideline to future handling of the situation. Moreover, the motion likely to be introduced by Ghana in the next General Assembly session of the United Nations, endorsing the Sanction blacklist and perhaps, outlining the penalties to be faced by individuals could also make the task of cricket officials much easier.

Of course the ICC members have resolved not to victimise individuals for the time being, which is a contradiction of the Gleneagles line, and even if this is enforced by all the Test playing countries, a new problem now is the attitude towards New Zealand. As per an ICC decision the fact that the South African rugby team has been allowed into that country should not reflect on the Kiwis' cricketing future. But the governments concerned including the British and the Australian, may not coincide with this opinion. Indeed, Australia's visit to New Zealand early next year will now have to be very carefully considered.



ATANU BHATTACHARYA

Spot report

INDIAN SQUAD TO MERDEKA

AIFF could have done a better job

THE team that is to represent India at the Merdeka Football Tournament is definitely not the best available one Let us take a close look at the team that is going to Kuala Lumpur Goalkeepers Bhaskar Ganguly, Atanu Bhattacharya, Defenders Compton Dutta, Monoranjan Bhattacharya, Sudip Chatterjee, G S Parmer, Shyamal Banerjee, Aslam Khan, Linkmen Parminder Singh, Mihir Bose, Prasun Banerjee, Krishnendu Roy, Forwards, Vijay Kumar, Xavier Pius, Shabbir Ali, Narendra Gurung, Harjinder Singh and Bidesh Bose

Let us start with the goalkeepers It seems rather foolish to play in a tournament abroad with only two custodians Let us look at it this way one of them can get seriously injured during the first match or even during practice The team will then be left with just one custodian, with no one to substitute him if he in turn is hurt At least three goalkeepers should have been included There can hardly be any doubt that Bhaskar is one of the best custodian in the country, if not in Asia The only other goalkeeper in the country who can give him some competition is Brahmanand Salgoaikar of Salgaoncar, Goa

But luck was not with Brahmanand During an exhibition match at Patna, he rushed out in anticipation of a shot and in the process had his left hand crushed under Rosario Antao's boot. This resulted in a compound fracture and he was brought back to Calcutta and operated upon, with a plate and a screw employed to get the hand back into shape But even the best team of doctors could not get him ready for this trip and the question of whether he will be able to play at all is in doubt There was very little to chose between Bhaskar and Brahmanand and he would definitely have made the trip if it had not been for the injury The chief coach, P K. Banerjee, has been heard saying in certain circles that Brahmanand. with his height, could have been the first choice In his absence, Atanu Bhattacharya got the nod

The defence looks quite solid Compton Dutta and Shyamal Banerjee should be the two wing-backs in the 4-2-4 or 4-3-3 formation Considering their form, it is difficult to imagine anyone replacing them Monoranjan Bhattacharya is also certain of gaining a place as one of the two stoppers. With his international experience and tough, rugged approach, Monoranjan will definitely control a great deal of area in the middle But who will be the other stopper? In all probability, it will be JCT's Parmer The other stopper to accompany the team is Sudip Chatterjee of Mohun Bagan But, Parmer, also a tough exponent of the game, will perhaps get the nod because of his international experience

Like Atanu, Sudip, a young player, should gain a lot of experience from this trip. The other defender in the squad is Aslam Khan, who has very little chance of making it to the first team, unless the two side backs are injured But is this the best available set of defenders? Definitely not! Subrata Bhattacharya is the best stopper we have and he, along with Monoranjan should have been the ideal choice

If the team plays in the 4-3 3 formation, the coach will not have much of a problem and will field Parminder Singh, Mihir Bose and Prasun Banerjee, with Krishnendu being the substitute in the midfield But which two players will be used if India adopts the 4-2-4 formation? Prasun is sure to make it, as he is the only positive half, because both Parminder and Mihir are technically forwards converted into halves While Parminder has been playing as a halt over the last few years, Mihir has only played in a couple of matches in this year's League He had been forced--reluctantly, it is reported—to play as a linkman for Mohun Bagan because their star medio, Gautam Sarkar had a muscle pull

Gautam Sarkar sustained this set back at the start of the League and only after the other linkmer were tried and they failed was Mihir told to play as a medio Though he is a hard worker and can take a tremendous load, he is definitely not a positive ball winner in the midfield On the other hand, Parminder has international experience as his plus point Both can take long range shots and can act as an extra forward, but how far they will succeed in gaining territorial supremacy in the tough matches, remains to be seen Perhaps in this sphere we will miss Pusparaj Kumar of Karnataka, who has been included as a stand-by He is a positive linkman and has represented the country in the past

THE forward line seems to be in a mess. There are three basically left-footed players—Bidesh Bose, Narendra Gurung and Harjinder Singh—and only one positive right-winger in Vijay Kumar, along with duo strikers Xavier Pius and the captain of the side, Shabbir Ali Since he has been made the captain, the selectors are sure that Shabbir has a place in the side Chief coach P K Banerjee has labelled Xavier the most dangerous striker in the country today. It can therefore be expected that these two will make it to the first team

What about the others? If the team plays in the 4-3-3 formation, we can leave out Vijay Kumar. Still, there are three contenders for the last spot. Bidesh should be the first choice because he can cope with rough tackles, whereas on the other hand both Narendra and Harjinder, though very good ball players are basically timid Harjinder can play in the left striker's position, but that will mean beating Xavier for the spot, which seems rather difficult

On the other hand, if India adopts the 4-2-4 formation, Vijay Kumar, being the only positive right-winger, makes it to the first team, but the coach will be faced with the same problem in fielding the left winger spot Here, one will miss Manash Bhattacharya, who without doubt is the best right-winger in the country today It is reported that Vijay Kumar got the nod because of his South Indian connection If this is true, it is definitely a sad commentary on the state of affairs

After the first coaching camp, and after the 21 deserters left the camp, a team was selected to tour Dacca, but the trip ultimately fell through After the second camp started at Secundrabad, seven of these deserters. Bhaskar, Compton, Shyamal, Monoranjan, Mihir, Prasun and Bidesh were told to reinforce the camp Since all are in the team, they were obviously taken with that motive in mind If these seven can be recalled what was wrong in including Subrata Bhattacharya and Manash Bhattacharya?

Prior to the camp, it was heard that only seven players would be taken because the Government, though it had pardoned the players for their past follies, had instructed the All India Football Federation to take only seven players at a time If we proceed on this assumption, Subrata and Manash should have also made it Subrata is still better than Monoranjan and if the choice had been between the two, Subrata should have been given the nod But, I still maintain, Subrata and Monoranjan would have been the ideal pair of stoppers

In the forward line, Bidesh has been recalled In the camp we already had two left footed players, Narendra and Harjinder, and so it would not have effected the team had Bidesh not been included On the other hand, if Manash had been in the team it would have been more penetrative because of his speed Ideally both should have been there, but if the "seven" directive was to be followed strictly, Manash would have been a better choice

SARAJIT DEB

Focus

The dilemma of promising young soccer players

What does a little-known footballer do when approached with an offer from a big club? Should he accept, the chances are that he will sit on the side-lines for most—if not the whole—of the season, as the established stars will continue to hold sway. If he ignors the offer, he will have to remain in an unheralded side. perhaps never to receive such an offer again. SARAJIT DEB spoke to some of the up-and-coming youngsters on the Calcutta Maidan to get the full picture

A MATCH is in progress between one of the big teams and a smaller side The home team leads by a comfortable margin and is sure of victory Midway through the second half, a young, promising player is seen warming up on the sidelines The coach accompanies him to a spot near the centre line and calls out one of the established stars, substituting him with the youngster

He immediately becomes the centre of attraction His team mates, coaches, the officials of the club and spectators—and of course the people who are listening to the radio commentary –all follow each and every moment made by this young player Depending upon his performance in that short period, judgement is passed He is either booed for every mistake he commits, or if the spectators think he is capable of becoming a good player, they bear with him If he is extremely lucky, he will be cheered

If he should fail, another dream is shattered If he succeeds, he has a chance of making it to the first team in future

The scene described above is not at all uncommon on the Calcutta Maidan, but let us go back a bit further When the so-called junior teams play against the so-called big sides, all the players in the less-fancied outfit make it a practice to produce their very best form They know that in order to catch the eyes of talent scouts, they will have to perform well against big teams It is well known that talent-scouts of the big teams do not bother to watch matches involving weaker sides, instead preferring to concentrate on games involving both big and small teams It is but natural, therefore, that these players reserve their very best for the matches against the Big Three

It very often happens that one or two players from the junior team play well, either thwarting their opponents' moves, or is constantly harassing the defence of the home team Immediately, the scouts make a mental use of the player or players in question This is often the first step to discussion in the club circles as to whether these youngsters should be recruited for the coming season

There are two sides to every coin, and the above instance is no exception First there is the position side The big club wants to ensure the services of the young players for itself, because they recognise potential when they see it It is an added bonus if they have spotted a player—say, a left back—and that position needs reinforcing in the big team If a particular player in a big side is ageing or is liable to take a transfer the scouts are hawked when it comes to unearthing a potential replacement

There is another reason for signing on young players this is the negative side of the coin Big clubs sometimes adopt a dog in the manger attitude, signing on talented youngsters simply to prevent them from assisting rival sides Thus, if for instance, Mohun Bagan officials feel that a certain player might be approached by East Bengal, they sign him on first not because they want him but because they do not want their rivals to get him All this adds up to just one thing another promising player is brought over to sit on the sidelines

Comes the transfer season and the officials of the big club approach the player He is offered a considerable sum of money (considerable in terms of what he would otherwise receive in a small team) and also a verbal assurance that he will be given a fair chance to make the grade in the first teams

The player, who usually comes from a financially lower-middle or even low class family, cannot ignore the offer and takes the plunge. As a young player told me: "After all, we may not



Aloke Mukherjee tackles Ranjit Chatterjee of Railway Football Club—success in the very first season

get this kind of offer every year. We try to make the best of it when it comes." Of course, it would be wrong to say that only the monetary factor plays a role in his attraction for the big club. Another equally important factor is that he is getting a chance to play for a big team, the dream of every footballer right from the moment he starts playing on the Calcutta Maidan. But what is ironic is that these young, promising players take the plunge without the least knowledge of whether they are going to be given a fair trial or whether they will warm the sidelines for the rest of the year.

The practice sessions begin under the guidance of the coach after the transfers are over. With very little practice together, the teams depart to play outstation tournaments. This year Mohun Bagan went to Calicut to play in the Sait Nagjee tournament, while East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting went to Bangalore to participate in the Stafford Cup. In addition, Md Sporting played the inaugural Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Gold Cup tournament at Patna. The coaches cannot take the risk of introducing new blood into their teams unless, of course, this is absolutely necessary. So the established players are fielded in the side and the newly-recruited young, promising players are mostly left out in the cold.

The next step is that the teams return to Calcutta and begin preparations for the Federation Cup. In the Federation Cup too, unless it is absolutely essential that they be included, the young players are made to sit on the sidelines. Slowly, these players begin to question the wisdom of their initial decision to sign up. It becomes apparent to them that even though they might have been as good as the established players during practice, (or even better), the coach is not in a position, for various reasons, to field them in the first team.

Most of these players then resign themselves to their fate and wait anxiously for the Calcutta League to start. They know that their team will have to play more than 20 matches and they think that in the gruelling three-month period some of the established players are bound to take a rest, while others may be injured and so they wait anxiously for the chance that will come. They also know that they must make the most use of the first chance that comes their way. For this precise reason, the players continue to practise seriously, if they have not already lost heart by then.

THE team that signed on the maximum number of players from junior sides this year was Mohammedan Sporting, who included no fewer than ten youngsters. Samir Mukherjee, Balai Mukherjee, Samiran Saha, Nirmal Chatterjee (from Aryan), Kartick Sett, Sibnath Barui, Seikh Aktaruddin (from Rajasthan), Ashok Chatterjee, Aloke Mukherjee (from George Telegraph) and Uttam Majumdar (from Kidderpore) all signed on for

TAPAN DAS



Arup Das moving dangerously in one of the League matches. he is likely to make it big

Mohammedan Sporting. None of these players was given much of a chance at Patna or at Bangalore. But in the Federation Cup, we saw a change in the regular team: regular left back Gauranga Banerjee was replaced by up-and-coming young Aloke Mukherjee in the first match against Salgaocar. "In that particular match, I was not able to play my normal natural game. Perhaps I wanted to play very well and for that reason, I was nervous. In the next match against ICT, I was slightly better and in fact I did not play too badly against East Bengal in the last match of the quarter-final league although I was replaced by Gauranga Banerjee. In the semi final and final, it was Gauranga who played in that position," Aloke recollected.

"Prasanta Banerjee and our captain Moidul Islam came to me with an offer to join Mohammedan Sportings. I realised that because I had played well last year, they were giving me the offer. I thought that if I did not take up the challenge this year, I might not get the opportunity ever again, simply because I might not be able to produce the form I had displayed last year. I was confident on one score: if I got a chance, I'd prove myself.

"In a way, I admit I was lucky to get the break so early in the tournament. I got the chance mainly because Gauranga was sick and was not with the team at the beginning of the Federation Cup. He joined the team later and took over his old position, but in the two and-a-half matches I played at Madras, I think I was able to prove that I am capable of playing in the position."

Aloke came back with a vengeance during the League. "I knew that the senior, established players would be given first preference so, I started practising in right earnest. Ultimately I was rewarded when I was given back my position in the League matches. Slowly, I overcame the initial nervousness which I had faced in the match against Salgaocar. I managed to get the better of it. I realised that the first year in a big team is vital and so I tried to play well in all the matches. I know that the crowd watch me very carefully and so if I play badly on a particular day, I give my all for the next match, so that my bad performance becomes a thing of the past, for the crowd."

Aloke has established himself in the team, but as he himself said, he was

lucky to get a break so early in the season Undeniably, he utilised it to the maximum and prompted P K Banerjee, the national coach, to say "I think at present there is no tougher tackler in India than Aloke Besides his heading and sliding tackles, he has a powerful left foot and covers a lot of ground with his left-footed shots He does not believe in percentage football and is not at all afraid to take risk However, he should pay more attention to ball control and off-the-mark speed" That, then, is Aloke's good fortune But what about the other nine? They were given opportunities only when it was absolutely essential that they play, when the established players were injured or when their star players were doing duty at the Asiad preparatory camp They continue practising regularly in the hope that they will be given a chance and that when it comes along, they will have to utilise it to the fullest.

Let us see what one of these nine players, Balai Mukherjee has to say "I joined the big team with the knowledge that I might have to return to my former side But I was willing to take the risk because I thought it might be too late if I let this opportunity slip after all, I have been playing for small teams for the last six years and if at this stage I did not take the risk, when would I have done so? I came here with the idea that I would have to fight very hard to get into the regular teams. But then, I thought that if I was able to play at least seven matches for Mohammedan Sporting, that would definitely be better than playing 21 matches for smaller team

"No, I do not think that I made a mistake At least at this stage, I am still optimistic about my future If I feel I will have to go back to a small team, I won't hesitate But at least I will be clean in my conscience that I tried to make it big A positive advantage I have gained in coming to a big team is practice In the small teams, we do not have this kind of serious practice And practising with the senior players has helped me a lot I have played a couple of matches in the League and am now waiting patiently, practising hard in order to utilise the chance when it next comes"

This year, ironically enough, there is a crop of young, promising players who are in the reckoning for the national team but are failing to make the grade in their respective club teams In the Mohammedan Sporting side, there is Kartick Sett, who was called for the first camp at Salt Lake and later selected for the team that was to visit Dacca The latter trip fell through because the Government did not grant permission He was also called for the second camp, but was sent back to assist his club side He is now playing regularly for the club but was only used as a reserve when the side was at full strength Actually, one cannot think of anyone to replace the Mohammedan Sporting combination of Manash Bhattacharya, Shabbir Ali, Md Akbar and Bidesh Bose. But, at least he has been used as a replacement from time to time.

IN the Mohun Bagan side, there are also a few players, three to be precise, who fall into the same category as Kartick Sett. They are Sudip Chatterjee, Biswajit Bhattacharya and Arup Das While Sudip is in the team that is going to Kuala Lumpur to play in the Merdeka Football Tournament, Biswajit has been included as a stand-by Arup's case is similar to that of Kartick. He was selected for the Dacca trip, called for the second camp but was sent back to assist his club

While Sudip is in the Indian team, he is not considered good enough to represent his club, Mohun Bagan He played a few matches in the League, but that was only when the regular stoppers, Subrata and Samar Bhattacharya were given a rest. In the vital matches it was the Bhattacharya duo that played as stoppers Biswajit was also tried on a few occasions but he was never in the first team Now, while the duo first-ranking strikers, Xavier Puis and Mihir Bose are doing national duty, Arup has found a place in the side He has displayed skill, and he has the advantage of being able to play in all the four positions in the forward line

Arup's line of thinking is quite clear "I had reached a certain level, having represented Railways in two Nationals I was prepared to take the risk, otherwise it would have been too late I know there would be stiff competition, but I was ready to fight for a place in the team I have definitely improved because of the practice I've been through—it is very effective But I have come to play and I would definitely not have come if I had thought I was being taken on to sit on the sidelines I still maintain, it's better to play for a small team than to sit on the sidelines for a big team"

Arup has more or less made it Even after Xavier and Mihir come back, it will be difficult to drop Arup, who may be tried in a different position And even if he is not able to make it to the first team, he will surely be the number one substitute as far as the forwards are concerned

The Mohun Bagan defence totals a full football side—11 players Among them is Biswajit Bose (from Aryan) who was the junior Indian captain on the last trip to Dacca The defence is more or less settled with Compton Dutta, Subrata, Samar and Shyamal Banerjee holding fort There is no place for any other player unless the regulars are given a rest or injured So, the obvious question is why did Mohun Bagan recruit so many players?

There was a lot of trouble prior to the transfers The 21 players had left the Asiad coaching camp and Mohun Bagan had suspended their players for leaving the camp without the club's permission It was during this period of hesitation about whether the suspension would be withdrawn or not that Mohun Bagan recruited Biswajit and Sudip (from Bengal Nagpur Railway) along with Satyajit Mitra (East Bengal), Gautam Bhattacharya (from Mafatlal), Samar Bhattacharya (from East Bengal) and retained Sanjeev Choudhury, Ashok Chakravorty and Pradip Choudhury, as they were unsure of the fate of Subrata Compton and Shyamal

Said Biswajit "I joined the club during the controversial period and I was given to understand that I would be given a chance I also thought that since those players (Subrata, Shyamal and Compton) had been suspended, I would have a fair chance of getting into the first team At the beginning of the season, I was doubtful as to whether I had made a correct decision in joining Mohun Bagan

"But I did not lose heart and kept practising so that I would be absolutely fit I wanted to make it sure that whenever I got the first opportunity I would make people understand that I am a good footballer Right from my childhood, I have always been confident about what I do So I practised hard and have tried to utilise every chance that came my way I think my game has improved because of systematic training"

Biswajit got a chance when Shyamal and Compton went off to do national duty He utilised the opportunity well and with his fine ball sense, distribution and tackles has more or less established himself in the team At present, it is difficult to imagine him failing to make it big, so good has been his performance

IN the East Bengal side, no one has reasons to complain All the young players who were recruited this year were tried. That they failed is a separate matter At least, neither the club nor the coach can be blamed for that

Every year the same tale is repeated Ten to 15 up-and-coming players join the big teams, but of whom only about five make it If not that year, they do so the following season, but the rest suffer They sit on the sidelines for most of the season and either they go back to the smaller teams the following year or they take another chance and stay on, hoping against hope to make it big

This is a very complex situation, because one cannot put the blame on anyone in particular While the club definitely needs new, young players to render yeoman service after being groomed, the players for their part cannot ignore the offer At the same time, it is a very risky decision for the club coach to field a young player right from the beginning of a season. If the youngster clicks, all is fine, otherwise the coach bears the brunt of the criticism So he has no other alternative but to carry on with the established players and wait for the right opportunity to give these players a chance In the ultimate analysis, it depends upon the players concerned and on how well they utilise the chance when it finally comes their way.

CALCUTTA LEAGUE

Mohammedan Sporting on top

SUBHASH SARCAR and SARAJIT DEB report on the closing stages of the League

MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING have not had much to cheer about over the last few years, but what followed their victory against Rajasthan had to be seen to be believed. There were tears of joy, uncontrolled outbursts of ecstasy and grown-up men hugged each other like little children. Strangers embraced and thumped each other on the back, their only common bond being their love for the team that had finally won the League.

In the main, there were two men responsible for the victory. The first was club president Erfan Randerian, the second was goalkeeper Bhaskar Ganguly, whose presence of mind saved the day when all seemed lost. When he thwarted Amit Bagchi in a do or die situation, it was appropriate that his side's goal came as a result of the move. Mohammedan S.C. thereby head the League table for the eleventh time in the history of the club.

In a rare emotional outburst the club president said, "Nothing can be achieved without team spirit and this is precisely what my boys proved." A draw would have been sufficient for the home team to edge out their closest rivals, Mohun Bagan and indeed, at one stage it seemed that they would be held to a tie by plucky Rajasthan.

Among the crowd that thronged the ground that day was Mehboob Khan Sabu, a former Mohammedan S.C. player who journeyed to Calcutta after 33 long years to watch his old side in action. Sabu, who had represented the side for 14 long years before he finally hung up his boots, said, "They played like champions, but we never missed so many chances in our day. Standard wise, too, we were superior."

His assessment was a fair one. Mohammedan Sporting certainly had their fair share of chances in the first half, but they proved far too erratic. All they needed was that one supremely important goal, but their forwards proved unequal to the task of getting past custodian Tarun Dutta, who warded off all danger confidently. Said coach Shyamal Bose after the game, "My goalkeeper played a fantastic game when you take into consideration the fact that only last season he was a second division goal-keeper. My team went all out and sometimes we gave them their share of anxious moments. Stopper Goutam Shome and linkman Swapan Routh played extremely well. Captain Krishnagopal Chowdhury also did extremely well."

Rajasthan went into the attack after the breather with Krishnagopal volleying over the bar, to the disappointment of his side. The black and whites, however, were quick to retaliate and only a unique interception by Shome saved the day with the goalkeeper out of position and Kartick Sett ready to pounce.

Once again, the supporters of the home team had an anxious moment when Amit Bagchi passed to Krishnagopal inside the box. Had Aloke Mukherjee not been fleetfooted, the story could have been different. "Mohammedan Sporting deserved to win," said the Rajasthan coach. "Both sides were very tense but if we had played this match earlier, we would



Manash Bhattacharya scores the match-winner against Rajasthan



TAPAN DAS

Players hug each other in joy after the victory

probably have snatched a point. It was Bhaskar who saved the day for them. Had he delayed a fraction of a second, the story could possibly have been different."

In the words of Abdus Sattar "I don't know how to express myself. My boys really gave of their best. This is a wonderful moment for us, thanks to Bhaskar."

THE home team were rather anxious before their encounter with Behala Youth, who had held Mohun Bagan to a draw This was quite evident in their penultimate match against the sprightly Youth boys till the breather It seemed as though the pulse rates of both the players and the supporters rose abnormally high as long as the scoresheet remained blank.

Added to the tension was medio Prasanta Banerjee's twisted ankle sustained midway through the first session. It must have been painful as he continued limping for quite some time, but he kept on playing, realising that there was neither Prasun nor a better substitute—and this helped the team psychologically Only when Mohammedan S C netted the first goal did Prasanta leave, replaced by Ashok Chatterjee

What the home side wanted desperately was an early lead They did get two chances within five minutes but both were wasted by Tapan Das He missed the first off a backpass by Kartick Sett and the second through a Manash Bhattacharya centre The manner in which he attempted these two chances exhibited his lack of football sense At times his display was most exasperating although he made amends when he scored the team's fourth goal with a brilliant follow-up shot Kartick, too had his chances

"We played under tension because we were aware that it was a crucial match. We missed several opportunities because of excitement and tension That is why we could not take the lead in the first half," said coach Abdus Sattar Only after Mohammedan S C opened their scoresheet did the players leave a sigh of relief. Then began the rampage As the coach confessed "As we took the lead the tension died and we moved properly thereafter."

Behala Youth goalkeeper Amitava Choudhury proved his mettle time and again. He did not have to bear the brunt of conceding a single goal as he was replaced after lemon time. As coach Achyut Banerjee put it," He was replaced by Shibu Karmakar because of an injured leg. But as long as Amitava was there we knew no goals could be scored." Just after defender Anupam Bagchi's timely clearance before Kartick could make an attempt, Amitava Choudhury dived brilliantly and fisted out a rasping Prasanta volley. This was followed by a fine piece of anticipation by the goalkeeper Manash had only the custodian to beat off a Nirmal Chatterjee through pass but Choudhury intercepted with precision and averted the crisis.

But the day belonged to Manash who


TAPAN DAS

After the victory supporters lift captain Moidul Islam on their shoulders

scored the long awaited hat-trick Manash began his quest for the hat-trick with a fine volley from a Moidul Islam header off a flag kick five minutes after resumption. Then, availing a Tapan Das lob eleven minutes later, Manash beat Youth's wing-back and sent in a left-foot grounder which the goalkeeper could barely touch before it entered the net

However, the knowledge that he was on the verge of a hat-trick seemed to have an adverse effect on his game, but this was only momentary He could have achieved the feat earlier, had Kartick not spoiled a move on top of the box, but Manash's third goal was a unique one he beat a host of defenders and sent home a pile-driver with his left foot "Manash deserved the hat-trick The last one was a beauty," commented Sattar, adding, "Tapan's goal, too, was superb"

Talking about his feat, Manash proclaimed "My forwards were instrumental in my getting a hat-trick Being the top goal-getter thus far, with 17 to his credit Manash said "I am leaving this to the Almighty We are in such a position that it is difficult to say whether I'll be the top-scorer We are all tensed up and the match against Rajasthan will be very crucial in deciding the title issue, whereas Jamshid Nasirri, who is only one goal behind me, really had no tension as East Bengal is already out of the contest."

EAST BENGAL: The matches of the home team assumed nothing more than academic interest Perhaps the only man really interested in the matches is Jamshid Nasirri, who is heading for the top scorer's spot, along with Manash Bhattacharya The match against Aryan proved to be a lucky one for Jamshid, who got two of his club's three goals. It was a easy-paced match and judging by the Aryan lineup it was apparent that they were least in-



TAPAN DAS

The hoisting of the club flag



TAPAN DAS

A tense moment in front of the Rajasthan goal

terested in the match Most of their regular players were absent and it was more or less a second-string side

The home team got the first opportunity to forge ahead as early as the fifth minute when Amalraj, after dodging past a few defenders, centred the ball which went to Somenath Banerjee, who took a prompt header However, even after the ball had beaten custodian Achintya Das, it was saved on the goalline by Sankar Sarkar East Bengal did not have to wait long to take the lead, as an opportunity came their way two minutes later

Somenath sent a long pass from the midfield which was well anticipated by Majid The latter's fine centre into the penalty box went to Jamshid, who made no mistake, sending the ball home with a neat placement The same combination was also instrumental in the scoring of the second goal, which came minutes before the breather From a free-kick just outside the box, Majid sent a measured shot for Jamshid and all the latter had to do was nod the ball in

Jamshid scores a goal against Howrah Union



TAPAN DAS

After the change of ends, Aryan got a chance to narrow the lead Shyamal Bhattacharya sent a through pass to Amitava Mukherjee The latter, anticipating the ball, ran down the middle and had only the goalkeeper to beat But the East Bengal custodian, Gopabandhu Sahu, rose to the occasion, rushed out and dived to collect the ball That was the best chance Aryan had in the match A few minutes before the final whistle, East Bengal scored the last goal of the match, this time through Majid Amalraj gave the ball to Jamshid, who passed it on to Majid, whose shot from inside the box, curved into the net.

THE defenders saved the day for East Bengal in their next match, against Howrah Union It was the



TAPAN DAS

Majid gets the better of two Howrah Union players

junior team that held territorial supremacy, because the midfield was in their possession It was a scrappy, lucklustre affair and the forwards of both teams failed to find any gaps near the goal area But it was the Howrah Union forwards who never allowed the East Bengal defenders to rest

East Bengal got a goal seven minutes before the final whistle Dilip Palit sent a long clearance which went to Amalraj, who sent it across to Sankar Adhikary. Sankar sent in a perfect centre and Jamshid headed home. But what was most striking about the match was that after the home team had gone into the lead, all their players fell back to defend their citadel Even the forwards were in their own penalty area, and after that they did not even try to increase the margin.

WESTERN INDIA T.T.

Playing standard improves

FAROKH KHODAIJI

THE announcement made by the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) that performances in the Western India Regional Championship would be considered for team selections, lent an edge to the contests in the senior events

Continuing the good spell he enjoyed at the selection trials at Patiala, Manjit Dua won the men's singles event, defeating Sujay Ghorpade in the final. In the trials which preceded the Western India tournament, Manjit won all his matches except the one against national champion V. Chandrasekhar At Bombay, Manjit won the tournament, but not before he was beaten by unseeded Sunil Babras of Maharashtra in the group league Ironically, Babras finished eighth in the league

Dua's omnipotent weapon is his forehand loopdrive His whole game is built around it With improved fitness which he displayed this time, the percentage of loopdrives he delivered was tremendous In fact, his positioning for the ball was more accurate compared to his previous play.

The men's event attracted eight of the ten ranked players of India National champion Chandrasekhar stayed away and S Ramaswamy also did not participate Manmeet Singh withdrew at the last minute Giving Sujay Ghorpade an entry into the first eight seedings And how well Sujay Ghorpade exploited this stroke of luck. He defeated R Hari of Indian Airlines in the last 16 and then went on to beat Rajat Kathuria and S Sriram in the league matches. Both these players were also contenders for a place in the Indian team for Pyong Yong Surprisingly, Sujay lost to Nitin Puri in the last match of the league, but this did not affect his entry into the final

Incidentally, even though both defeated the finalist from their group Nitin Puri and Babras ended up contesting the 7th-8th place in the event. The final was a repeat of the BCA finals last month. Dua was in full cry, and Sujay tried vainly to contain him. Dua also enjoyed a string of net-chords and edge points in his favour, which as some players put it, is characteristic of the guy". But that does not detract from Dua's superiority He won in straight games.

The match of the singles, however, was the one between Kamlesh Mehta and Manjit Dua It saw Manjit at his



Indu Puri—dominated

best He put all his energy and experience in this match Guts played a big part in Dua's victory—as he produced stroke after stroke in the closing stages of the fifth game and scored a worthy win

The women's singles event was dominated by Indu Puri Credit for the



improvement in Indu's game goes to Korean coach Pak U-Gil He has worked with her on both her game and her movements. The result is a player who goes for her shots, rather than play diffidently Indu dominated the section and if she dropped a game or two, it was merely due to lapses of concentration

1 The Western India meet saw the downfall of the secord 'force' in Indian TT , Shailaja Salokhe Shailaja was beaten by Nandini and Kashmira Patel in the league matches She finished fifth in the event I do not recollect such a low position for Shaila in the last eight years

Sujay Ghorpade won the boys singles title with non chalance He was in his own world as he served, looped and smashed past his opponents He is streets ahead of the rest The Karnataka sub-junior, Vasanth Bhardwaj and Bengal's Ganesh Kundu also impressed Kundu won the sub-junior title defeating Bhardwaj. Jayant Thatte of Pune finished third, but could have done better had not suffered an unnecessary defeat against Niraj Oak of Gujarat

Niyoti Roy, the junior girls champion had a bad tournament. She lost to Lata Dhote of Nagpur in the women's singles Dhote represented Maharashtra's second team in the past, but done little of note since. She simply chopped and chopped, while an impatient and petulant Niyoti threw away her chances.

Assam's Smita Sinha Roy similarly defeated Niyoti in the girl's singles final. A good temperament is Smita's greatest asset. She is a fighter all the way Niyoti played in patches--sometimes brilliant, sometimes blundering

The sub-juniors girls title went to Shipla Takalkar, she defeated top seeded Poonia Rao in the final The standard of play in this event was not as good as one would have liked to see

No doubles events were conducted A frequent omission now in Bombay's tournaments, and one which our players do not seem to miss But doubles is not only exciting, it develops quick movement and positioning for play I am sorry doubles play is being neglected

In general, the playing standard was better then usual Players had shed all their excess fat at the training camp under Pak U Gil. They all looked trim I anticipate though that now the camp is over, players will go back to their easy going ways, which in one sentence, is the story of Indian table tennis

The omission of over 25 year-old for the camp, the exceptions made for Indu Puri and Manjit Dua and later for Nandini Kulkarni--left a bitter taste in the mouth of excluded players, Shailaja Salokhe, Kashmira Patel and Vilas Menon Shailaja was especially bitter having served the country so well in the last decade Watching her play, I too felt Shailaja was slipping In her case she should follow Vijay Merchant's advice of restoring when people ask "why, and not why not."

Just one point

New venue for Asiad soccer a must

M. N. SHOME

FOOTBALL is today the most popular sport in the country—and a money spinner too, next only to cricket The chances of India winning a gold medal in the sport at next year's Asian Games in New Delhi, are rated very high Yet soccer is receiving stepmotherly treatment at the hands of the Asiad organisers and no separate venue for soccer matches has been planned.

The Asian Games Special Organising Committee has creditably covered a lot of ground in its effort to achieve a spectacular success in organising the biggest ever Asiad, as per the schedule Wave of seemingly insurmountable obstacles coming as they did one after the other, particularly during the last nine months, could not deter the authorities from not only going ahead with the gigantic construction targets but also announcing 10 months in advance the details of the venues, dates and times.

Ironically, however, the Games schedule as announced, has been a cause of great concern about the smooth running of such an important discipline as football, the event which brought us two Asian golds and a bronze

The 75,000-capacity main stadium under construction at Lodhi Road and the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) ground at Kotla have been chosen for the purpose It is understood that while the semi finals and the final matches will take place at the Main Stadium at night the DDCA ground will hold preliminary and other matches in the day and evening The plan, is to have two to three matches a day at the Kotla ground, one of them in the forenoon This is, of course, subject to the approval of FIFA since, it is understood, according to FIFA rules, no international soccer match, including those in the Asian Games, is allowed to take place before noon It is also understood that two telegrams have been sent to the world body to expedite sanction Obviously, overenthusiasm has made the Games officials somewhat complacent and blind to the reality of the situation

The Kotla ground being essentially for cricket, conditions underfoot are far too soft for any heavy booted game, and that too, for nearly a fortnight at a stretch Also, as football has the maximum entries, there will be a heavy schedule, and the Kotla ground will be unable to bear the strain Khwaja Ziauddin, president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and two other important soccer personalities like Wing Commander K.K. Ganguly



Buta Singh can help out

and Mr G P Sinha (Organising Secretaries of the Durand and the DCM Cup tournaments, respectively) are of the firm opinion that if three matches per day are played at the Kotla ground, the playing surface would be reduced to a veritable dust bowl at the end of each day and since matches are to be held continuously, the surface would not be allowed any time to recover

Again rich Asian soccer nations like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan spend vast amount of money in training and developing a top-class national football team These countries are very fastidious about ground conditions Any protest in this regard, if upheld by the FIFA observer to be posted during the Games, could put India to considerable embarrassment and an exhorbitant fine amounting to Rs 40,000 It may, incidentally, be recalled here that the world body attaches immense importance to ground conditions and suitability of the venue Only recently, one will recall, the Malta Football Association was fined 10,000 Swiss Francs (approx Rs 40,000) as the FIFA Technical Committee members found the venue of the Malta-Poland match in the World Cup preliminaries at the Gzira Stadium unfit for any international soccer match

Unfortunately the importance of a football competition in an Asian set up was not apparently, fully appreciated by the concerned authorities in the AGOC Talking about the organisational aspect of the football tournament, Wg Commander Ganguly lucidly expostulated the dilemma involved "India holds the competition on behalf of the Asian nations and in a manner of speaking are trustees of their confidence and interests Participating nations expect the host country to provide near-equal conditions for all matches Due consideration should be shown to the participating teams' disinclination to play at any time of the day Due regard should be shown to their normal food and rest habits All this may not be possible if three matches are billed for one day at one stadium only"

Again many soccer experts view with great concern the absence of proper warm up grounds at the Kotla venue The adjoining ground No 2 is totally unsuitable because of non-availability of any dressing room facilities nor any could be built there owing to the peculiar shape and size of the land If after a warm-up players are to rush to dressing rooms, some 500 yards away and atop the present cricket pavilion, hundreds of steps upward, India will become the laughing stock of the international football community This apart, development of proper pavilion facilities was not possible at the Kotla venue where there is no structure along the length of the field at present

UNLIKE Calcutta the bulk of the spectators in Delhi belong to the office-going class Due to floodlighting and the likelihood of a liberal outlook by the Government with regard to office attendance during the Games, there would always be a full house for

football matches and unless there is proper arrangement for a large number of entrance and exit gates, there is bound to be a stampede at the Kotla ground situated as it is, thus increasing more and more headache for the authorities. It will nevertheless be a risky proposition since a number of foreign VIPs would be attending the matches daily.

Moreover, football VIPs would never relish the idea of watching from behind the goalpost. A cricket stadium, whatever improvements may be done, has certain technical limitations, which cannot be overcome. Also, any improvement effected to the existing structure at Kotla would not be a legacy for football after the Asian Games

The main stadium at Lodhi Road, on the other hand, will be preoccupied in staging the athletic events. According to the schedule, the track and field events would be held there from November 25 to December 2 As the Stadium will have a loaded programme from early morning till late in the evening, it will not be possible to stage football matches before sunset or early morning, both the times, as I said earlier, will be inconvenient for the public and players alike

The capital's familiar football haunt, the Ambedkar Stadium at the Delhi Gate, venue of the prestigious Durand Cup—world's second oldest soccer competition after the FA Cup in England—and the famous DCM Cup, India's only international soccer tournament, for many decades, falls short of international specifications. It cannot, therefore, be utilised for any international event like the Asian Games soccer.

It is thus imperative that a new football stadium be constructed for the Delhi Asiad either on the sprawling grounds adjoining the Ambedkar Stadium or in the nearby Indraprastha Estate, where the Gandhi Darshan mela is held every year. The main consideration for choosing this site is its proximity to the walled city, undoubtedly the most popular football pocket comprising a vast chunk of a revenue earning crowd

Both the Durand Society and the DCM Cup authorities would, I am told, gladly cooperate in any venture aimed at raising the new stadium. In fact, they have assured me that a soccer stadium of international standard with floodlight arrangements could easily be raised in good time without any grant of finances from governmental agencies, so that not only the game could be held in its natural habitat, but the danger of India facing a heavy fine for any misadventure is averted This would also augment India's organisational image among the soccer community of this vast continent

Both the Durand and the DCM Cup authorities are very keen about this matter as their tournaments are languishing at present for want of proper infrastructure

It is a pity that the most popular major game like football should have to borrow a cricket ground for the Asiad when minor games with little prospect of considerable use will have separate stadia for each! Numerous cogent reasons have been cited and repeated requests have been made by experts and veteran soccer organisers as well as widely travelled reputed sports journalists for the construction of a new football stadium in the Capital, but all efforts seem to have ended in futility

Football, the poor man's game with mass participation throughout the world and the most sought-after event in any Asiad, with over 20 entries, is being accorded a poor relation status by the Asian Games authorities It is certainly not yet too late to correct the imbalance in the development of facilities, particularly when the Prime Minister is deeply concerned about making the IX Games a matter of national pride

Asiad organisers are a dynamic group under Mr Buta Singh strengthened with Mr Rajiv Gandhi induction and, they can still save the situation It will be a long long time before the Government and others will have the time, resources, land and inclination to give the Union capital a football stadium once the Asiad is over It's now or never



Sportspeople

A promising pedaller

A HESITANT starter, through steady improvement, is sure to emerge a winner. That, in essence, is the story of *Jugta Kahai*, one of the most promising cyclists today on both the Karnataka and the national cycling scene. From an obscure beginning in local races, Jugta has risen to the level of attending the coaching camp for the ensuing Asian Games in 1982

Jugta's initial interest in cycling was just casual Moreover her parents objected to it because they considered it a very expensive and dangerous sport But once she began her winning spree, her parents not only stopped objecting but went so far as learning all about the sport to coach her Now they are encouraging her all the way

Jugta made her debut at the national level in September 1979 at the Jabalpur Nationals She did not have a cycle of her own and instead rode a borrowed cycle. Yet, to everybody's astonishment, she walked away with the championship in the Under-16 category After that she has never looked back

Her next big appearance was at the Bikaner Nationals in January 1980 where she participated in the senior division. At 13½ years, she became the youngest cyclist from Karnataka to reach the national level In the 1980 South Zone championships she got medals in all the women's events, even finishing first in one race with a punctured tyre! She now has a cycle of her own—a French Peugot

Strangely, Jugta has never had a proper coach apart her father, who taught her the basic techniques Later on she attended one camp at Patiala where she "got a fair idea of how to go about it"

"I wish I had a regular coach. Since I have got golds without a coach, I could do extremely well with proper coaching" She says in a confident voice, adding that she needs only polishing as the final touches

She sees Armen Arat as her closest rival "Armen has the best equipment," says Jugta With a little coaching, she is confident that she can beat Armen and reach the top "In the beginning, I was hesitant but now, I have gained confidence," says Jugta

In Karnataka, cycling was coming up very well in 1980 There were a lot of tournaments, but even then the scene does not look promising as yet There are no special facilities available, and there is no proper cycling track even at Bangalore at present

She has not missed a single race organised in Karnataka and creditably has been amongst the best three in every race.

In recognition of her achievement, she was granted the State award in March 1980 She was also adjudged the most "outstanding sportswoman" for that year She secured the national sports talent search scholarship in 1980 and will be awarded another one for 1981

Jugta feels that there are four good tracks in India—two at Patiala and one each at Bikaner and Calcutta The Patiala and Bikaner tracks are the best, with 45° banking. "It is like riding on glass," she adds The track at Bangalore had a banking of 30° but was good Now, as the adjoining athletic tracks are being relaid the cycling track has become unfit for use "There is no track now which is a pity because a track makes all the difference" she feels

In January 1981 Jugta broke the individual pursuit and time trial records The unique thing was that the record was broken on a very difficult grass track in the Lal Bahadur Shastri Cricket Stadium at Hyderabad while usually, records are created on cement tracks She returned a timing of 3.37 secs in the individual pursuit and 1.15 secs in time trials She took part in the Under 16, Under 18 and in the only event in the women's sections As there were too many events she could not do her best but she rates this as her best performance until now she collected three golds and three silvers

Of all the events she prefers the individual pursuit which involves continuous racing for 6 to 7 laps and is the most gruelling race Another favourite is the time trial which is almost like athletics and involves a couple of laps For this, she feels, though she has got the necessary speed, she must build up her stamina

Jugta has been called for the Asian Games camp at Patiala. Four camps are scheduled on from June to November at a stretch But she is likely to have problems with her studies as a candidate for the ICSC at St Sophia's girls' High School As she has a very good academic record she may get permission to make it in time at least for the third and fourth camps "That means I can go to Bangkok, which is a rare chance," she says Before the Asian Games there is an Asian Cycling Championship which is scheduled to be held at Bangkok towards the end of November this year



Dilip Vengsarkar gets his life partner On August 15 the ace Indian batsman married Manali at Bombay

like Wing Commander K.K Ganguly | money in training and developing

News round-up

Good show by junior girls

HYDERABAD: More than satisfactory performances and dropping of stars like Bula Ghosh and S. Banerjee of Indian Railways for alleged unsuitability marked the conclusion of the junior girls' volleyball coaching camp for the Mexico (World) Cup here at Hyderabad Indoor Stadium

Though India should be happy about qualifying, in the words of coach captain L. R. Chauhan, we have little chance of finishing anywhere near even the tenth spot with giants like Japan, Russia, England, South Korea, North Korea Czechoslovakia, Iran and Iraq taking part in the championship. According to Chauhan, 15-year old Radhika Reddy and 19 year-old Sally Joseph of Kerala have emerged the brightest prospects of the camp.

Radhika has already represented the country at the Asian Youth Championship at Seoul early this year though the latter had an unfortunate experience in the school meet last year when the authorities ruled her over age. It was a mistake which was realised too late, thereby causing the young girl a great deal of frustration.

Coach L. R. Chauhan is quite satisfied with the performance of the probables at the first camp which commenced on July 13 and ended on August 7. A sports officer in the Army Services Corps, Bangalore, the 37-year old barrel chested Chauhan said, "The girls are showing an extremely good response. Their performance is encouraging."

The girls who underwent tough training also looked cheerful. The training at the camp, with sixty per cent of the emphasis on physical fitness, is divided into three sessions. The mornings are devoted to flexibility exercises, hill and staircase running, hopping on grass, specific movement exercises, with emphasis on speed and agility, limbering down recovery exercises and weight training. The trainees are required to go for crosscountry runs twice a week.

Keeping in view the players' ignorance of the rules of the game, periodic classes are also being conducted during the day. Evening sessions are devoted to regular volleyball training with particular emphasis on the technical aspects of the game. About 16 probables will be retained at the end of this camp. There will be further eliminations after the second camp, most probably to be held in Hyderabad. The final selections will be made after the third camp.

Captain Chauhan, who is also responsible for the physical conditioning of the team is 'hopeful' that by the time the players launch their World Cup campaign, they will touch peak form.

Coach Chauhan with probables





Usha Paul after recovery

The doctors of Osmania Hospital have done the country a great service by saving a promising volleyball player from her doom. Usha Paul, (18) a certainty to represent India in the Women's Junior World Cup Volleyball Championship to be held at Mexico, would have been a corpse but for the timely intervention of Mr Pratap Reddy, a doctor turned-contractor and a friend of coach Captain Chauhan.

Usha had developed severe abdominal pain three days before the coaching was to conclude. It ultimately developed into pancreatitis. Pratap Reddy, who happened to find Usha in unbearable agony immediately got in touch with Dr. Habibullah at the Osmania Hospital. She was hospitalised and after three days of intensive treatment came out smiling.

The incident points to the sorry state of affairs prevailing at the coaching camps conducted by the Sports Council. It appears that the Asiad preparatory camp did not have a regular physician to attend to the participants.

M. S. SHANKAR

Punjab lose in court

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Government lost the legal battle in the sports gradation certificate case when the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the State to allow two petitioners—Miss Ravdeep Kaur and Miss Parvinder Punia—the grant of sports gradation certificates on the basis of instructions issued in 1977. This in effect meant that the instructions issued through a notification last month have become infructous.

The Punjab Education Department this year issued fresh instructions governing the issuance of gradation certificates. Under this, various sports disciplines had been split into major and minor games and grouped separately for the purpose of granting certificates.

Some sports disciplines had been excluded from both the lists and this move came in for sharp criticism at the hands of the Punjab Olympic Association and certain other sports associations. In the past, most people who were issued sports gradation certificates on the basis of their performances were, strangely, from "lesser known" disciplines. Most of those who had never been sportsmen of any known calibre including those being kept as reserves --for obvious purposes--have succeeded in grabbing the quota reserved for sportsmen.

The Sports Department has now invited fresh applications for the issuance of sports certificates which had been held up in view of the writs pending in the High Court. It now seems that people with vested interests have again outwitted the Government. Who will ultimately make it to the medical colleges remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the office staff of the Punjab Sports Directorate went on a protest strike because of the beating up of office superintendent Krishan Gopal Puri by unknown assailants while leaving for home after office hours.

The four young men approached the official, asked him his name started abusing and beating him. He was rescued in time by his other colleagues, but the assailants had made good their escape.

Mr Puri told the police after the registration of a case that he suspected the attack to be motivated by some senior officers of the department. He is understood to have named at least three officers in this connection, including one posted as a sports officer at Ludhiana. No arrests have been made as yet. Even the officers named by the official were yet to be questioned, it is learnt.

SATISH KUMAR

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Australian escape in hailstorm Test

The Test, the 200th between England and Australia, was ruined by the weather—only half the scheduled 30 hours of play was possible—and England after dismissing Australia for their lowest Test score in England for 56 years, were deprived of what looked a certain easy win

The first day's play ended when the storm burst just before lunch, a downpour giving way to hail England were 53 for the loss of John Edrich's wicket and Colin Milburn had played the first part of an innings which Marshall said ranked with the "greats" in all Lord's history Describing Milburn's knock, Marshall said, "Every aggressive stroke was sheer delight and when he sent a ball soaring a hundred feet or so over square leg's head into the stand even the most devoted pot-wallopers in front of the Tavemers' bar put their pints between their feet to join in the applause "

Next day Milburn, one of the heaviest men to play Test cricket, tore into the bowling, adding a six off Bob Cowper (into the grandstand under the Father Time weathervane) to his previous hooked six into the Mound stand off Graham McKenzie Milburn was finally caught on the boundary off John Gleeson for 83 With Geoff Boycott (49) he had put on 132

Australia's captain, Bill Lawry, later wrote "The partnership by Milburn and Boycott on a difficult wicket was a pleasure to watch, even for an Australian The 49 by Boycott will always remain in my memory as a miniature master piece by a professional cricketer—perfect technique being used when needed " Lawry said Milburn had hammered the Australian attack to all parts of the Lord's oval

Colin Cowdrey (45) and Ken Barrington (75) added 97 but the flooding had left its mark and many painful knocks were received, Barrington had to retire for a time and Australia's 'keeper, Barry Jarman, suffered a chipped finge. Little play was possible on the third day and Cowdrey declared on the fourth morning when it was felt Australia might have problems

They certainly did Lawry was out for a duck and in a total of 78 only Doug Walters (26) and John Gleeson (14) reached double figures Magnificent swing bowling by David Brown (5/42) and Barry Knight (3/16) was responsible for the Australian collapse.

Lawry (28) and Ian Redpath (53) began with 66 on the follow-on but play was restricted by the weather to under two and a half hours on the final day Australia were 127 for the loss of four wickets and the match ended in a draw, Paul Sheahan having batted 50 minutes for 0 not out

In this match Cowdrey, who had tossed successfully with a gold sovereign presented to him by Sir Robert Menzies, reached important milestones in his career

* When he had scored 14 he joined four famous England batsmen who had scored more than 2,000 runs against Australia
* Among seven catches in Australia's first innings as John Snow, Brown and Knight moved the ball in the air and off the pitch were three by Cowdrey at slip—taking him past a fellow Englishman's Test record of 110.

QUESTION 1 **Who were the four English batsmen who had previously scored more than 2,000 runs against Australia?**

QUESTION 2 **Whose record of 110 catches in a Test career did Cowdrey pass in the Lord's Test of 1968?**

When Geoffrey Boycott was lbw to Rodney Hogg for 0 in England's second innings in the fourth Test of the 1978-79 series, in Sydney, it was the first time in 10 years that the Yorkshireman had been dismissed in a Test for a duck The dismissal 10 years earlier came at the end of a bad spell for Boycott, who failed to score for the third time in four Test innings The failures were against the West Indies and New Zealand and two of Boycott's three ducks were inflicted by the same paceman

Wisden, describing Boycott's third duck in four knocks, said· "He missed a hook and stood dumbfounded as the ball rolled from his body into the stumps. He had to drag himself away from a pitch which promised such bounty for batsmen "

QUESTION 3 **Who was the bowler who left Boycott dumbfounded after dismissing him for a duck for the second time in successive Tests?**

Rodney Hogg, who got Geoff Boycott's wicket four times in the 1978-79 Tests and clean bowled him for one in the third, became only the sixth Australian to hit the Yorkshireman s stumps The others were Peter Philpott, Neil Hawke and three West Australians

QUESTION 4 **Who were the West Australian bowlers?**

A famous English batsman had a curious penchant for duplicating his huge scores Other batsmen have made such scores as 302, 264, 238, 231, 217, 211, 192, 178 and 177, but this batsman made all these at least twice and some of them three times He made 140 five times

QUESTION 5 **Was this batsman Hammond, Hobbs or Hendren?**

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Arthur Gilligan wrote "I have asked over a hundred people this riddle and practically 90 per cent have given Robinson run out I put the point to two first-class umpires, Frank Chester and Jack Newman, and they replied simultaneously 'Smith is out, caught', and that is the correct answer " *Wisden's* editor added a footnote? "MCC have ruled this as 'caught'"

2 Gilligan wrote "When asked for an immediate decision, many people say s broken the wicket The correct decision is therefore bowled—played on It is just the same as if the batsman had played the ball on to his foot, whence it rebounds on to his stumps "

3 Herbert Sutcliffe, whose first four innings against Australia in the 1924-25 series were 59, 115, 176 and 127

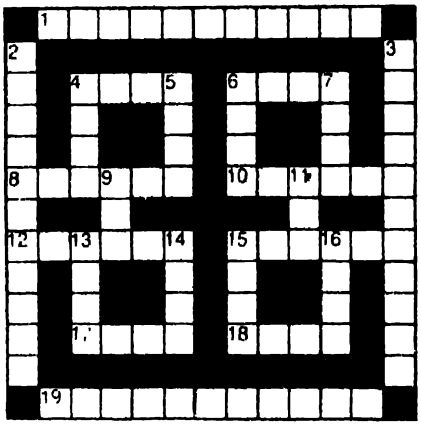
4 Clarrie Grimmett, who took 5/45 and 6/37 in the fifth Test, 1924-25 in Sydney.

5 Maurice Tate

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

113



ACROSS

1 Centre of attraction during "The Fortnight" (6,5)
4 Horizontal stroke in sprinting (4)
6 Single despatch of letters on football and hockey ground (4)
8 This family pioneered of Danish tennis (6)
10 Marathi saint returns as ace Indian fielder (6)
12 Baseball player in New York (6)
15 'Sweet Georgia Brown' is the signature tune of these hurried travellers through foreign countries (6)
17 Bad boy from Rumania (4)
18 Terrible first round loser at Wimbledon (4)
19 Woman tennis player won first two legs of '81 Grand Slam (1,10)

DOWN

2 Head-first face-upwards high jumping technique (7,4)
3 Cricketer nicknamed Bacchus (6,5)
4 Skippered New Zealand's first-ever Test victory ascends (4)
5 Wsjoh, Brumel, Winter and Douglas excelled in this form of jumping (4)
6 Hockey urge (4)
7 Flip or tumble—in swimming (4)
9 To disgust an opponent (3)
11 Light wind broadcasts important Indian sports events (1,1,1)
13. Initially Delhi's leading sports club (1,1,1,1)
14 Neither the foil nor the sabre (4)
15 Athlete Chand's Christian name (4)
16 Boxer Spinks comes down jockey Remedios goes up (4)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Identify the following
1 Yuri Sedykh
2 Fortune Gordien
3 Parry O'brien
4 Bernard Hinault
5 Brad Cooper
6 Sang Hue
7 Jackie Charlton
8 Daley Thompson
9 C Ramaswamy
10 Zhang Cheng

ANSWERS

1 Olympic gold medallist (1976, 1980) and present world record-holder in hammer throw
2 U S athlete who held the world record in discus throw several times between 1949 and 1953
3 U S shot-putter who held the world record for the better part of the '50s
4 World Champion in stage cycling
5 The Australian swimmer who was awarded the 400m freestyle gold in the 1972 Olympics after the original winner Rick Demont had failed a dope test
6 Cricket umpire from West Indies.
7 Half-back of England's 1966 World Cup winning football team.
8 Moscow Olympics decathlon champion.
9 Test cricketer for India who made his Test debut in his 40th year
10 Present holder of the Asian record in pole vault

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

V. Naveen, Secunderabad.

Q. What is the number of wickets taken by Alan Knott behind the wicket?

A. 244 catches and 19 stumpings, making a total of 263 dismissals behind the wicket in 93 Tests

Q. Is there a cricket team which has won all the matches on an official tour?

A. No

S. N. Moharana, Bhubaneswar.

Q. How many centuries have been recorded by S M Gavaskar and G R Vishwanath in first class cricket?

A. S M Gavaskar 59 and G R Vishwanath 36

Sham Lal, Jullundur.

Q. Where did Hall and Gibbs perform their hat-tricks?

A. Hall performed the hat-trick against Pakistan at Lahore in 1958-59 and Gibbs against Australia at Adelaide in 1960-61

Jagannath Bal, Cuttack; Anil Kumar Kalu, Srinagar

Q. What is Sunil Gavaskar's birth date?

A. 10th July, 1949

Rajiv Shroff, Gauhati.

Q. Who has hit the fastest Test Century?

A. J M Gregory of Australia who reached his century in 70 minutes in the second Test vs South Africa at Johannesburg in 1921-22.

Sheab Kumar, Kanpur.

Q. How many Tests have been won and lost by India while playing against West Indies?

A. India has won 5 Tests and lost 17 Tests against West Indies and the remaining 21 Tests out of a total of 43 Tests remained indecisive

B. Dasmohapatra, Midnapore.

Q If a no-ball hits the stumps and crosses for a boundary, how many runs are scored?

A. Four, as no-ball, if not touched by the bat

Q. If a fielder stops the ball inside the boundary but he himself runs out of the boundary line, is it a four?

A Yes, it is four If the fielder carried the ball with him across the boundary line.

Q. What is P R Punjabi's address?

A. 62, Nibbanna, Pali Hill, Bandra, Bombay 400 050

Arun Banerjee, Gauhati.

Q. Is there any mode of dismissal, other than bowled, caught, l b w , run out, hit wicket and stumped?

A. Obstructing the field, handling the ball

Shashi Bhushan Patra, Pattamundai (Orissa).

Q. What is Kirmani's date of birth?

A. 29 12 1951

Pradeep Kumar Prasad, Burdwan

Q. In how many cities of India, Tests are being played? Name them

A. Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Madras and Nagpur

Mittu Bhowmick, Bettiah.

Q. What is Kapil Dev's record in Ranji Trophy?

A. In 22 Ranji matches for Haryana since 1975-76, Kapil Dev has scord 781 runs at an average of 23 66 and bagged 83 wickets at 17 15 apiece

K. Jairam, Bumpur.

Q. When, where and against whom did Ramakant Desai make his Test debut? What is his career record in Tests?

A. In the 5th Test vs West Indies at Delhi in 1958-59 and in 28 Tests thereafter, he caputured 74 wickets conceding 37 31 run apiece

Mari Martins, Goa.

Q. Give the bowling figures of Len Pascoe?

A. 23-7-53-2 and 26-2-96-3

Q. How many runs did John Edrich make for England?

A. 5138 in 77 Tests @ 43 54 per innings

Mahim Pokhrel, Gangamonthan.

Q. If a batsman misses the ball and it travels from the wicket-keeper to first slip to the fielder at silly mid-of, who on seeing the batsman out of the crease, breaks batsman's wicket Is the batsman run out? How and why?

A. Yes, the striker is run out, as the ball is not dead till then The ball is dead only if in the opinion of the umpire it finally settles in the wicket-keeper's hands or that of the bowlers

Kushal Kumar Sen, Ranchi.
Q. What are the Test records of Geoff Howarth and Richard Hadlee?
A. Geoff Boycott has compiled 1606 runs in 25 Tests while Richard Hadlee in 35 Tests has scored 1217 runs and captured 155 wickets for New Zealand

R. Arvind, Bangalore.
Q. In how many century partnerships is Greg Chappell associated in Tests?
A. Once for second wicket, 12 times for third wicket, 11 times for 4th wicket, 6 times for 5th wicket, and once for the 6th wicket

Raju, Raiganjpur
Q. Has Orissa ever qualified for the knock out matches of the Ranji Trophy?
A. No, not yet

Sanjeeva Roy, Muzaffarpur.
Q. What is Kripal Singh's Test record? When did he make Test debut?
A. Kripal Singh has scored 422 runs in 14 Tests at an average of 28.13 He made his Test debut in the first Test vs New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1955-56 when he made 100 n o

Sanjay K. Raja, Jamshedpur.
Q. How many centuries, double centuries and triple centuries have been scored by Don Bradman?
A. 17 centuries, 10 double centuries and 2 triple centuries

Nirmal Kumar Lakhani, Jaipur.
Q. What is the Test record of F S Jackson of England? How was he dismissed in his first Test?
A. F S. Jackson played 20 Tests for England, in which he made 1415 runs at an average of 48.79. He was caught by the wicket-keeper J. M Bhackham off C T B Turner for 91 in his first Test.

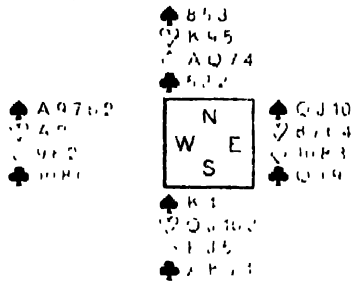
Sanjay Das, Howrah.
Q. Who scored first Test century for India? When and where?
A. Lala Amarnath vs England at Bombay in 1933-34

Samirendra Sanyal, Tezpur.
Q. Who has played the maximum number of Tests?
A. Colin Cowdrey of England, 114 Tests
Q. What is the Test record of Sobers?
A. Sobers has scored 8032 runs (a 57 78 in 93 Tests, captured 235 wickets conceding 34 03 runs apiece and held 109 catches

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

This week's deal came up in a recent pairs event and posed a typical no trump defensive problem for West Although he had a natural opening lead and little to worry about initially, he gained the lead again early on Should he continue with his original suit, or might that give declarer an extra trick? This was the full deal



Whether North South were playing a weak or a strong no trump, all roads led to Rome, with South ending as declarer in three no trumps It didn't require much imagination for West to push out the ♠ 6 and at most tables East ♠ Lost to the King At trick 2, needing two tricks from the suit for his contract, South led ♠ J Many that one west inaccurately played low, hoping that declarer was about to take a losing finesse It might have proved fatal but South still needed another heart trick and had to play the suit again, to leave West on lead with his ♡ A

How came West's real problem Had declarer started with ♠ K Q x when another lead of the suit would give him an undeserved trick and was it possible that partner held a quick entry like the ♡ K? You can see how defenders who relaxed like this fared they got off play with a rubber and and watched declarer rattle off 10 tricks

What about the players who defeated the contract? One pair guessed well to shift to ♣ 9 when he continued spades, one pair played a defensive device known as a 'smith peter', where the idea is to peter heavily in the first suit led by declarer to tell your partner that you were delighted with his opening lead it worked perfectly here when East dropped ♡ 8 on the second trick

One East had the simplest (and best) idea he played ♠ J and not ♠ 10 on the first trick Try working out his motives, - West on getting in 'knows' from his partner's play that South holds ♠ 10 and that another spade lead could not lead to a lost trick and yet could still lead to the ruin of the suit if East held ♠ Q as well

Last week's quiz: With ♠ K Q J 10 7 6 4 ♡ 8 5 ♢ 7 2 ♣ 8 6, you hear partner open two clubs (conventional) After giving a negative of two-diamonds, for it would be misleading to give an immediate positive, it is not a bad idea to play that a jump in your suit on the second round (say two hearts - *three* spades) shows a long suit with exactly one top loser The only snag is that some moderates play a bid like this as agreeing hearts and showing a spade control

This week's quiz: Taking the above argument one stage further, how would you plan to respond to two clubs if your suit was slightly weaker, say with ♠ K J 10 9 ♡ 7 4 ♡ 8 3 ♢ 7 2 ♣ 8 6 2

Chess

Peter Clarke

When you play through this week' game be sure to stop and admire the position after White's 20th move and the charming mate that could have occurred had not Black given up his Queen to prolong the resistance The White Knight's raid into the very heart of the enemy camp, attacking B and Q8 and causing havoc both to the left and right, makes a striking picture and lends the game a touch of immortality I write this with conviction, since I had the fortune to observe the event from the next board as it actually took place The occasion was the fourth round of the recent West of England championship, a tournament which I succeeded in winning with a score of 5½/7 My young colleague from Plymouth who triumphed in this game finished well with a creditable 4 7 and he will do his better in future if he can keep produce such vigorous play

White **Jeremy Menadue**; Black **David Shire.** Queen's Pawn, King's Indian Defence Winchester 1981)

1 P - Q4, Kt - KB3; 2 P - QB4, P - KKt3
3 Kt - QB3, B - Kt2; 4 P - K4, P - Q3
5 P - B3, 0 - 0; 6 B - K3, P - Kt3
7 B - Q3, P - QR3

The solid 7 B - Kt2 would avoid the risks associated with the thrust White makes on his 9th move

8 KKt - K2, P - B4; 9 P - K5, KKt - Q2
10 KP x P, KP x P; 11 0 - 0, Kt - QB3
12 B - QB2, R - K1; 13 B - B2, P x P
14 Kt x P, Kt(B3) - K4

Now it looks as if Black will obtain good compensation for his weakened pawn structure in the form of active piece play, but he should first have completed his development by 14 B - Kt2!

15 B - K4, R - Kt1; 16 P - B4, Kt x P
17 Kt - B6, Q - B2, 18 Kt - Q5, Q - Kt2
19 Kt(Q5) - K7ch, K - R1

After 19 K - B1 White could play 20 B - B3 and be sure of winning material

20 Kt - Q8! . .

There is – a stunning blow with a triple threat

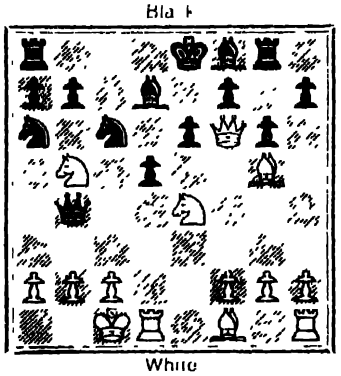
20 . . . R x Kt(K2), 21 B x Q, B x B
22 Kt x B, R x Kt, 23 B - Q4, Kt - K6
24 R - B1!, P - KR4, 25 B x Kt, R x B
26 Q - Q5 . . .

The activity of the White Queen kills Black's hopes of fighting back

26 . . . R - Kt1; 27 Q x QP, Resigns

Competition G481. Solution next week

Black



White

White to play How did the game finish? Grade 2 (easy)

Solution to G480 (Miles - Panno, Puerto Madryn, 1980). (6k1 / q4bp1 / 1pR4p / 3pP3 / 1P1P4/1Q3N2/5KPP/r7 - White to play.)

Miles exploited the absence of Black's major pieces from the K side by 33 R - B8ch, K - R2 34 Kt - Kt5ch, K - Kt3 (or 34 P x Kt, 35 Q - KR3ch, K - Kt3, 36 Q - Q3ch etc), 35 R - Bsch, K x Kt, 36 Q - KKt3ch, K - B4, 37 Q - KB3ch, K - Kt4, 38 K - Kt3, and Black exceeded the time limit (if 38 R - K6, then 39 P - R4mate)

Problem No 1146. Solution next week

G. Jonsson (*Dn. Schwalbe*, 1962) **(3B4/7p/2pP2bb / 2p5 / 2BN3Q / n3kp2 / 1NpR4 / 2K5 - 8 white men, 9 black).**

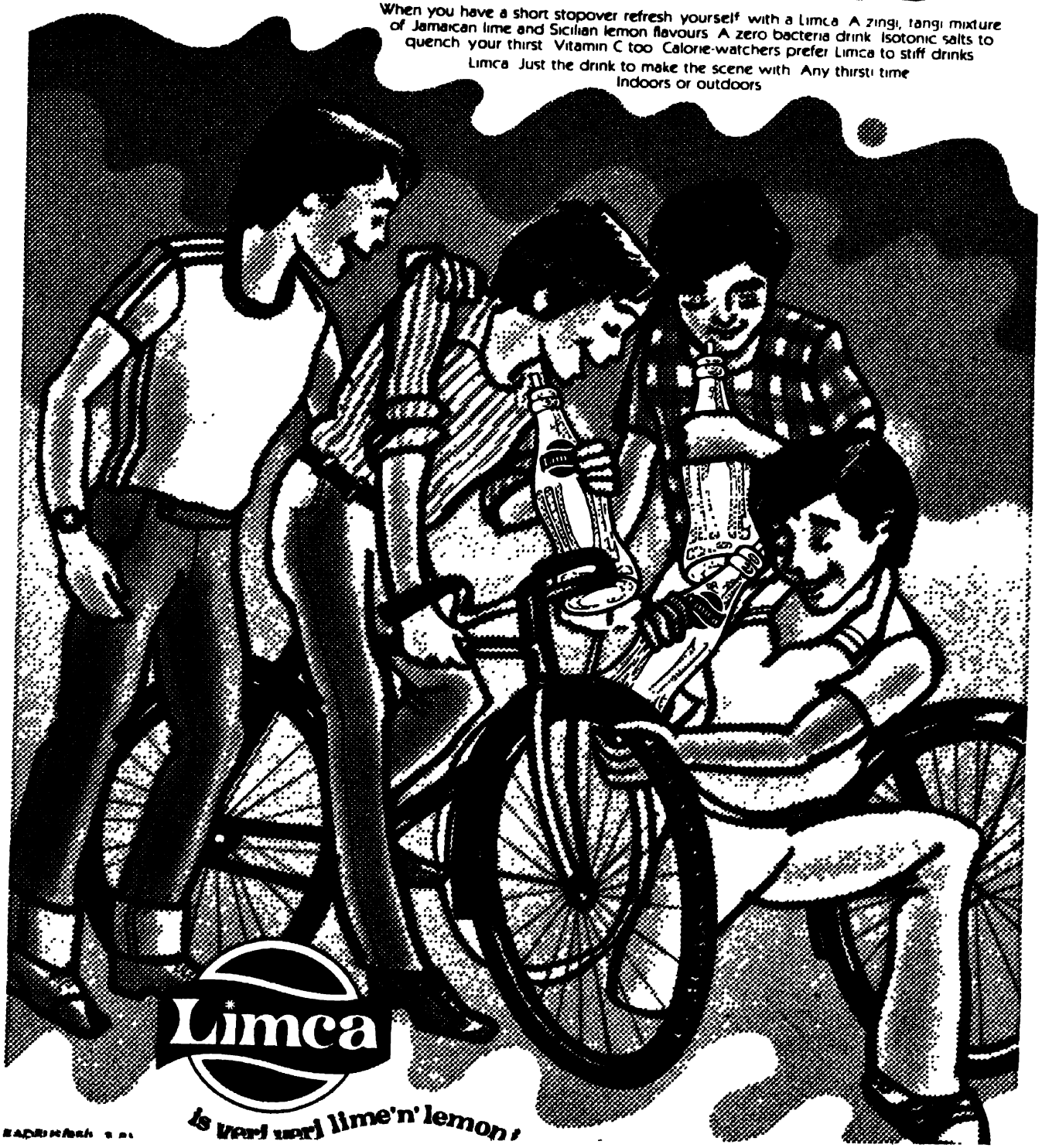
White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1145 (Heathcote). (1B2R3/nK1p4/6p1/rp1k2N1/p6R/3rp3/2Qp4/bn5b - mate in two.) 1 Kt - K6 (threat 2 Q - B5) (a) 1 . P x kt 2 R - QB8, (b) 1 P - Q3, 2 Kt - B7, (c) 1 P - Kt5, 2 Q - B4, (d) 1 B - QB6, 2 Q - Kt6 (e) 1 . R - B6; 2 R - Q5

Thirsti times

Cyclingtimes Limcatimes

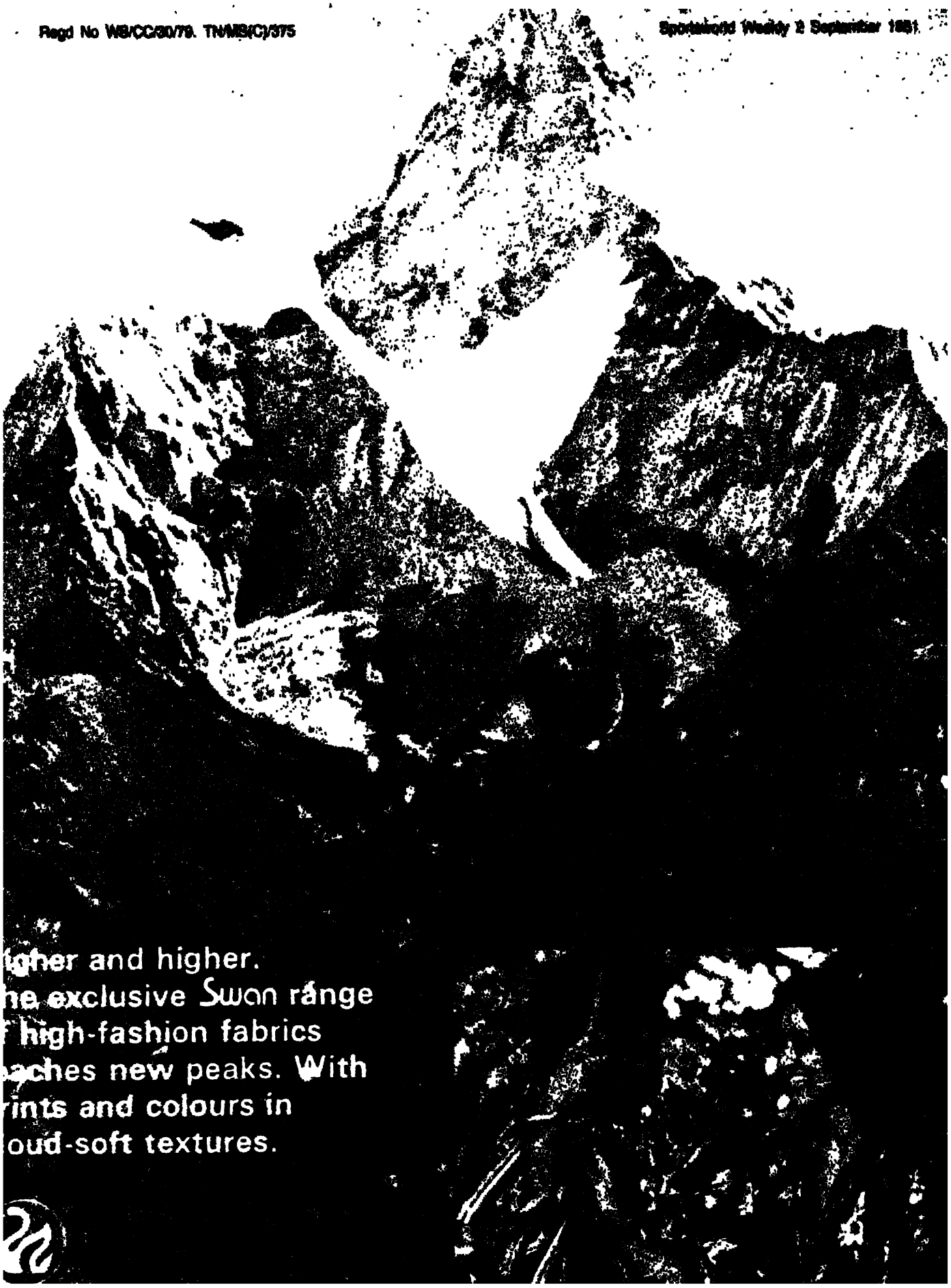
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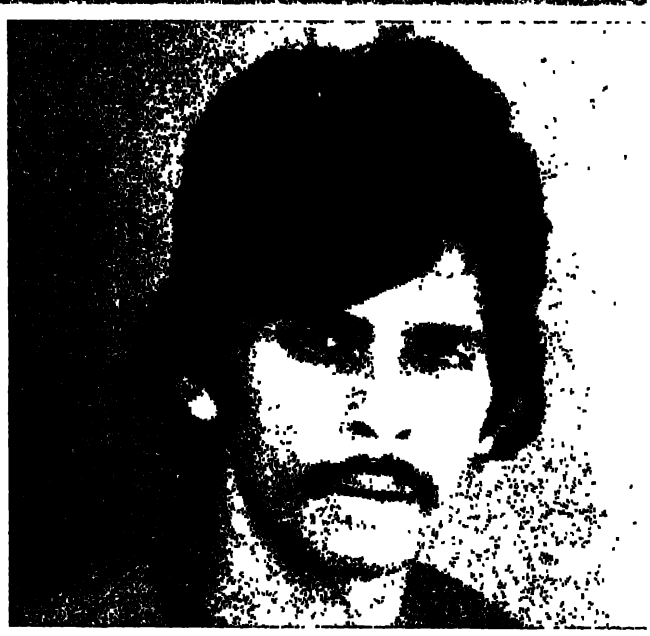


Sportsworld

South sweep the boards







CHUNI GOSWAMI analyses the final


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Sportsworld 7 October 1981

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HARESH MUNWANI met Yograj Singh to know his reactions shortly after the latter was excluded from the North Zone team for the Deodhar Trophy



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Letters to the Editor

Rare feat

WELL done Dibyendu! Heartiest congratulations to you on your twin success in Argentina and London. We are really proud of you It is rare for Indians to rejoice over the performances of their sportsmen on the international circuit One cannot help but wish you all the best for the future

JAYANTA NANDI ROY, Gauhati.

DIBYENDU BARUA's crowning as the world junior champion this year is indeed creditable. We wish him a happy future

R AGARWALLA, TAPAN DAS and M K DAS, Assam

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to John McEnroe for winning the U S Open Tennis Championship for the third year in succession, proving yet again that he is superior to the Swede Bjorn Borg His thrilling brand of tennis coupled with incredible aggression, combine to make him a true champion The essential difference between the two players is that Borg is a master of patience and self-control, both of which attributes the American lacks.

What was really lamentable was the threat to Borg's life prior to his match against Jimmy Connors.

PRABAL GUHA, Baljan North

IT was a great feat on the part of McEnroe to thrash Bjorn Borg in the U S Open final The poor showing of Borg, I think, was the result of the death threats against him McEnroe has beaten Borg on both grass and cement courts Now, if he beats Borg on clay, he will be the undisputed champion Let us wait till the French Open next year before passing judgment.

S SANTHANAM, Madras

WHAT a grand comeback for young Tracy Austin, who retrieved the women's singles title at the U.S. Open Tennis Championship. However, one could not help but feel extremely sorry for the defeat of Chris Evert at the hands of Martina Navratilova, who seemed to have lost her form long ago.

SHARMILA GUHA, Baljan North.

RAMESH KRISHNAN's victory over Stan Smith, the one-time Wimbledon champion is highly encouraging. In the quarter-final he added another feather to his cap by virtue of his brilliant performance against John McEnroe.

The way this young boy is shaping shows that the day is not far when he will reign supreme in the tennis world One should not be suprised if he beats McEnroe, Borg and Connors in the near future We hope he will achieve greater glory in future tournaments

ABDUL AZIZ, Hyderabad

THE credit for Mohammedan Sporting's recent victory in the Calcutta Soccer League should go to Erfan Tahir Randerian, Manash Battacharya, Bhaskar Ganguly and Prasun Banerjee

MOQUEET AKHTAR and ZAYA ARFI, Patna.

"HE came, he saw, he conquered"—this applies, quite appropriately, to the present English captain Replacing the man who had replaced him earlier, Brearley brushed aside all causes of pessimism in the English camp and won the Ashes for his country He was helped immensely in his mission by the all-round display of Ian Botham I believe no English captain in the recent past, captaining the side after a lapse of more than a year, has earned for England the Ashes and won three Tests in a row

KAUSHIK SINHA, Calcutta.

Unbiased

THE article, 'It was the absence of Greg Chappell that cost Australia the series,' in the issue of September 9, was nicely written and provided us with an unbiased account of the series

MICKEY THOMAS, Calcutta.

Obituary

Another warrior lays down his stick

Former Olympian GURBUX SINGH remembers Randhir Singh Gentle

RANDHIR SINGH GENTLE—or "Major", as we all loved to call him—rejoiced in telling us about his winning penalty corner against Pakistan in the finals of the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne This goal assumed importance not only because it heralded another Olympic gold medal victory, but also because it was the first-ever clash between the two neighbouring countries in the history of the game

Gentle, then, gained a double distinction Not only did he score the goal that gave his country the gold, he also scored the first-ever goal against Pakistan Over the last few years we have lost a great number of hockey stars to the cruel hands of death Immortals like Major Dhyan Chand, K D Singh (Babu), Roop Singh and Amin Kumar are now no more Never again will their stickwork and magic on the turf delight the thousands of fans of the game in this country of ours Now, another warrior has finally laid down his stick

Gentle was one of the finest full-backs ever produced by India He was like a giant who reigned supreme on hockey fields all over the world The one full back offside game was probably invented earlier, but the ploy was mastered by none other than Gentle when playing for Delhi Club and Delhi State After perfecting the technique, he used it to devastating effect for his club Tata's and for Bombay It was a real treat to watch him hovering like the sole occupant of the field, prowling the centre line He was always on hand to cut off the loose ball and send a beautiful pass through to his forwards

Another great stroke of his was the hit I can say with confidence that the world has yet to produce a better and cleaner hitter of the ball than Gentle His hits from his customary position of left back to the inside-right position would travel like projectiles across the ground, never leaving the grass His penalty corner hits, of course, were legendary I can still recall his practice hits—in the capacity of coach—to trainee goalkeepers during the camp for the 1966 Asian Games No matter how hard the custodians tried he would still convert an average of nine out of ten shots in both corners of the net, leaving the poor trainees dumbfounded

He was extremely courageous, both on the field and off it This can be judged by a flashback he discarded most of the senior, established players for the final of the 1966 Asian Games, instead fielding a young, untried side Although his wisdom was questioned in certain exalted circles, his gamble paid off and India brought home the gold.

Gentle loved life to the full He took everything as it came to him He loved to travel and would make several trips abroad every year, if not as a hockey coach, then as an ordinary tourist His coaching methods were renowned the world over and coached teams in Spain, Kenya, Malaysia, Uganda and America as well Even if he was not coaching an Indian team, he would always be present at every Olympic Games or World Cup tournament in the capacity of coach of foreign teams.

He loved to recount stories about his foreign trips and all the good times he had had while playing hockey He had a fund of stories about colleagues and officials alike, most of them very humorous and which he needed no urging to relate It was a measure of his popularity that these stories were told and retold several times, but they never failed to draw an enthusiastic response from his audiences He had the ability to hold the attention of a gathering for hours on end and had the extraordinary ability of being able to recall even the nickname of a person to whom he had only been casually introduced, even if it was a decade previously

His hobby horse was the subject of the inadequacy of present day players He was of the avowed—and unshakable—opinion that players of the modern generation are not capable of playing the game at peak form for any reasonable length of time He reckoned that their performances always went to pieces after a few matches. Another of his pet theories was that he was capable of beating the Europeans at their own game staying awake all night socialising and still being able to turn in a top-class performance on the field the next day

I only toured once with Gentle That was in 1966, when we went to Japan with Gentle as coach and myself as captain of the side Before the first Test against our hosts, our only goalkeeper sustained an injury that would obviously keep him out of the game It was Gentle who courageously offered to replace him, but he was ultimately persuaded not to play

Indian hockey has not only lost a great player but a wonderful personality and a marvellous character as well He was always the champion of just causes His fight for the Indian side after the return from the 1956 Olympics is now part of history He walked out of a third class compartment, refusing to travel in such a fashion He was suspended for his action, but was later reinstated

He was also an international umpire He understood the game thoroughly, both from the players' angle as well as the administrative aspect, serving the game honourably as player, coach, mentor, umpire and finally a radio, and television commentator

He lived his 60 years to the full Knowing him, he would not have regretted a single moment of that time

India's Olympic side of 1948 with Randhir Singh Gentle (standing second from the left)



Old-fashioned thriller

CHUNI GOSWAMI analyses the IFA Shield final, while SUBHASH SARCAR and SARAJIT DEB report on the other matches of the tournament

PHOTOGRAPHS NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

SOCCER is a delirium in this metropolis and the IFA Shield tournament the culmination of a feverish sporting season But this year's Shield tournament could hardly reach anywhere near the event it has been in previous years when to the soccer crazy people of this city it spelt a fortnight or so of fierce rivalry among some of the giant clubs of the country resulting in some spectacular ballplay on the greens of the Maidan

This time it was devoid of its old charm and excitement as most of the teams--outstation and home alike--performed below expectations. Not to speak of the former ones, the home teams, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan—the two of the trio that dominate the Indian soccer scene-- put up a very poor show in their important quarter-final and semi final matches While East Bengal just managed to scrape through to the final defeating Mafatlal by the margin of one goal, Mohun Bagan was nearly beaten by Rajasthan in the semi final Naturally few looked forward to watching a spectacular game in the final

But the unexpected happened when East Bengal and Mohun Bagan took on each other with tremendous killer-instinct Both the teams were bent on winning the Shield, and treated the crowd to an enjoyable show I really feel sorry for those who opted to stay away from the East Bengal-Aryan ground where the final was held

In the first half, though Mohun Bagan took time to settle down, they gradually established their dominance over the game, but not before facing a stiff challenge from the East Bengal forwards who made a number of early raids on their citadel A powerful Joseph Machado shot flew over the crosspiece menacingly sending chills down the East Bengal custodian Biswajit Bose's spine Working hard to bring combination and co-ordination in their attack, Mohun Bagan mounted their first attack on the rival goal when an Arup Das shot from the top of the box was blocked by Biswajit Das Inspired, they maintained pressure on the East Bengal defence and earned a number of flag kicks which however, they failed to utilise

In the 32nd minute East Bengal came close to scoring when Jamshid put forward a measured angular pass to Majid who had only to toe the ball in It was a brilliant chance which East Bengal could have cashed in on, but for the omnipresent Mohun Bagan linkman Gautam Sarkar who suddenly appeared on the scene to thwart the threat

In fact, Gautam did a great job for his team on this day At peak form he proved the prime mover of his team and had a hand in both the goals scored by his team In that sense he piloted Mohun Bagan out of disgrace

Mohun Bagan shot into the lead in the 40th minute of the first half While the credit goes to both Arup Das and Ulaganathan jointly as they co-ordinated well, with the former actually sending the ball home the blame to a large extent rests on the shoulders of Dilip Palit of East Bengal, who made a number of mistakes on the day, the most distressing one among them being when he tackled Arup Das dangerously resulting in a free kick which eventually, albeit indirectly, became the cause of the first goal against East Bengal Gautam took the kick lobbing it to Ulaga who in turn headed the ball to Arup Das who was almost unguarded and made no mistake to drive it home.



Arup Das beats East Bengal custodian Biswajit Das to score the first goal for Mohun Bagan

Views

SARAJIT DEB spoke to the coach of Mohun Bagan, SANKAR BANERJEE, while ABHIJIT GHOSH talked with the East Bengal football secretary, PRASANTO GHOSH

SANKAR BANERJEE: We were handicapped to a great extent because we were without five of our regular players, Compton Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Mihir Bose and Xavier Pius, doing National duty and Shyamal Banerjee because of an injury. In addition, we did not have Sudip Chatterjee, who is also in the Indian team. But the players present made up for the absence of their colleagues with tremendous spirit. Before the match, we had decided that we will go all out and that was how we started.

The first half was more or less even, but my players made more constructive moves, and it was during this stage that we shot into the lead. It was a good opportunistic goal by Arup Das. After the goal, we had gained control over the match but we were unfortunate that we could not increase the margin.

The major portion of the second half also belonged to us. They got those goals completely against the run of play. But although we were down, the boys did not give up their efforts and they were rewarded for their efforts when Francis DeSouza scored that beautiful goal. That showed the amount of team-spirit that my players had.

I would say that our played much better than their opponents and we should have won by a comfortable margin. But we missed too many chances. In spite of having territorial supremacy, we could not convert it to our advantage. But the most important thing was that the match was played in the best of spirits and it produced very exciting fare.

Coming to individual assessment of the players in my defence, mention must be made of Biswajit Bose, who was playing his first match for Mohun Bagan against East Bengal. He covered his zone well and helped the two stoppers, Pradip Chowdhury and Samar Bhattacharya. Pradip, with his experience, made up for his lack of speed. Samar was unconquered in the air and covered a lot of ground. I was more or less forced to play Satyajit Mitra at right back in spite of the fact that he did not have match-practice. He has a firm tackle and though, to a certain extent, he was responsible for the second goal, he tried his best.

My half line consists of a pair of veterans—Gautam Sarkar and Md. Habib They have left their younger days behind, but they did not give up. For a moment they were forced to slacken their pace, but they were well covered by other players. In the forward line, Arup worked hard, moving up and down and was rewarded with a goal. Francis, playing under adverse conditions, performed creditably and got that goal which restored parity. I think it was actually the team-spirit that was the key to our success. I say success because we were the better side and we have won the Shield for the fifth consecutive year since 1976. Of course, it was not played last year

PRASANTO GHOSH: It is no denying the fact that though the match ended blank, Mohun Bagan played a better game today producing compact football. Despite the absence of five players Mohun Bagan played creditably. One of the main reasons why East Bengal could not put up a good show was the failure of their deep-defence. We sorely felt the absence of Shekharan, who was injured in a confrontation with our own Dilip Palit. Then the mid fielders—Farred and Machado—also could not rise up to expectations. These two linkmen tried their best but their effort just could not reach fruition; Furthermore, our forwards could not create any effective positive move except the one of C. B. Thapa which finally resulted in a goal. We introduced Jamshid to make the best use of the absence of Subrata Bhattacharya, although C. D. Francis played well in the last match against Mafatlal.

This match had a special significance from the standpoint of East Bengal. East Bengal had been disastrously beaten by Mohun Bagan in their last two encounters in the Federation Cup and the League. So we wanted to win this prestigious Shield final.

To revive the team-spirit among the players I assembled all the players and we remained together all the time for the last two days. I enkindled the fighting spirit of the players saying that if Mohun Bagan win or somehow draw the match the credit will be theirs because they do not have five of their regular players.

It is a pity that East Bengal could not win this match The only silver lining, as far as East Bengal are concerned, is that we have not been completely thrashed by Mohun Bagan In 1979, East Bengal suffered from some unwanted problems concerning the then coach Aroon Ghosh and some of the players of the club. This had adverse repercussion on the players and we were beaten by Mohun Began in the Shield final Since then we did not win any tournament. Something happened this year. But in spite of the internal problems we have not been completely outplayed by Mohun Bagan. This will, I hope, inspire us to put up better performance in our future tournaments

Finally, there did not occur any repugnant incident in the field I invited the Mohun Bagan players to the East Bengal tent after the match so that cordial relations among the players are not destroyed.

Earlier also he inflicted an injury to his team as he clashed with team-mate Shekharan forcing him to leave the ground in pain

In the second half, East Bengal returned to the scene with a vengeance Seemingly pledged to avenge the goal they had to concede, they mounted tremendous pressure on Mohun Bagan.

However, that is not to say that Mohun Bagan relented in their attack at this stage Surajit Sengupta created a dangerous situation when he lobbed a ball into the box from an indirect free-kick. It was cleared somehow from the goalline A little later Habib made a good attempt to score, but his header off a fine Surajit lob did not find the mark as it flew over the crosspiece

In fact, Surajit was all the time in the picture, hanging around in search of opportunities And he got one in the 19th minute, did his best to utilise it and put the ball actually into the net but only to find himself pulled up for offside I have my doubts if the decision was justifiable

On the part of East Bengal, efforts were still on for the equaliser which they seemed dead set on scoring Sudhir Karmakar Premnath Philip, Joseph Machado and Somenath Banerjee were storming all over the ground putting Mohun Bagan in a tight corner time and again

The reward of their toil came in the 27th minute when young Somenath who replaced Subir Sarkar in the second half, converted a beautiful Majid pass into the much-needed equaliser From the way East Bengal were playing at that time, it must be said that they fully deserved it

In the dressing rooms

The Mohun Bagan players entered the Aryan tent (which they used as a makeshift camp) in a triumphant mood exulting over their performance The assistant secretary of the club, Sailen Manna, congratulated all the players and then went to coach Sankar Banerjee, who in turn touched Sailen Manna's feet to get his blessings

Amidst all the shouting in tent, "three cheers for Mohun Bagan", came the sad news that a staunch fan of the club, Naren Dey, had died of an heart-attack after Mohun Bagan had scored their second goal. "Perhaps he could not accept the fact that his team did not emerge victorious", said an official

While all the players were sitting on a big table changing their jerseys, Gautam Sarkar had said: We have proved that we are still the best" Later he added, "I think this is the best match Mohun Bagan have played against East Bengal over the last few years We could have won but for the failure of our forwards to utilise the chances that came to them "

Francis DeSouza came and hugged Gautam Francis said "This is the first time I have played against East Bengal, and I am glad that I have scored a goal I think I have played well today and have proved that in spite of a long layoff I am able to produce my best form against a big team" Arup Das, the other scorer, humbly said "This is the first time I have played for Mohun Bagan against East Bengal I am naturally happy that I have scored a goal but I would have been happier if we had won the match "

Biswajit Bose, another baby, as far as Mohun Bagan East Bengal match is concerned, said "No, I was not nervous I think I have played my natural game, but if the conditions had been ideal I would have played better" Pradip Chowdhury, the captain of Mohun Bagan, said: "Perhaps I have played my last match in Calcutta. I want to retire now We have showed what tradition means to us. In spite of the absence of some of our regular players we have played better and should have won the match comfortably"

Suddenly, from the nearby East Bengal tent, came Prasanto Ghosh, their football secretary, and invited all the Mohun Bagan players to his tent for refreshments One by one the Mohun Bagan players went to the East Bengal tent. The East Bengal football secretary noticed that both Gautam Sarkar and Surajit Sengupta, the former players of East Bengal, had not come He personally went again and brought them to the East Bengal tent. Surajit exchanged a few words with some of the East Bengal officials and then went back to his own tent with the rest of the Mohun Bagan players in a vehicle which was standing just outside the gate.



East Bengal's Majid Baskar and Mohun Bagan's Pradip Chowdhury involved in a tussle as Gautam Sarkar watches from a little distance

The general atmosphere of the East Bengal tent was not at all cheerful. Most of the players looked exhausted and were just sitting with a vacant look Sudhir Karmakar, the captain of the team, said: "It does not matter which players play for these two teams It is the prestige attached to the match between these two clubs that is actually important Though they played better, I think we were unlucky to a certain extent that we could not maintain our lead".

Chandra Bahadur Thapa, who has played only his third match for East Bengal, said: "I tried my best, but the conditions were not favourable I am naturally glad that I have scored a goal, but I think we could have won if we had not become defensive after we shot into the lead." Majid Baskar and Dilip Palit were relaxing in a separate room Said Dilip: "During the interval we had taken vow that we would play well and won the match and we nearly pulled it off." Majid refused to say anything. "My mind is not working properly. I am too tired"

The supporters of the club, however, were not satisfied. As I was leaving the tent I heard one player saying: "This was our best chance. They did not have so many players, yet we failed to beat them." But the officials looked relieved that they did not have to face yet another defeat at the hands of their arch-rival. They still have hope that they would put up good performance in their coming tournaments.

SARAJIT DEB

But the real drama was yet to take place. Hardly had the Mohun Bagan players recovered from the shock, when they saw East Bengal's C. B Thapa score what at that stage seemed to be the match-winner In one word, it was a beautiful goal—a clever square-pass from Majid, who dribbled past two Mohun Bagan defenders, to Thapa whose powerful shot bulletted to the net leaving Shivaji Banerjee, the Mohun Bagan custodian, totally helpless

It was only at this juncture that Mohun Bagan showed some signs, of despair, though only for a short while They were finding it difficult to regain the momentum But they rallied to put East Bengal into the defence soon Their forwards made frequent inroads into the East Bengal territory, and earned four flag-kicks in quick succession—an indication of the tremendous pressure they put on their opponents They created a number of openings, but all of them proved futile

The equaliser eventually came through Francis DeSouza It was Gautam Sarkar again from whom the successful move sprang He gave a forward pass to Francis who slammed a left-footer into the net, beating East Bengal custodian Biswajit Das And Mohun Bagan survived

Among the players of both sides Arup Das, Somenath Banerjee and to some extent Majid played exceedingly well At the same time it was very pleasing to see veteran Sudhir Karmakar, Habib and Pradip Chowdhury play a great game for their teams Fareed and Joseph Machado also can claim to be considered the best attacking linkmen in the match

However, the man who deserves special mention is the East Bengal goalkeeper Biswajit Das, but for whom Mohun Bagan could have increased their tally and won the Shield A word of praise must go also to Pradip Chowdhury who announced his retirement from Calcutta soccer after the end of the match He was the main source of inspiration for the Mohun Bagan defenders and himself foiled many a dangerous attempt of the East Bengal forwards

As for strategy there is hardly anything new to write about Though both the teams adopted the 4-2-4 combination, it was not tactics but intense fighting spirit and fierce determination to come out victorious in each of the 22 players that raised the match to great heights.

About ground conditions, I must say that despite incessant rain overnight it was not as bad as was anticipated The composition of soil in both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan grounds is much different from that of the Eden Gardens which turns into a quagmire after one or two heavy showers Though the East Bengal ground on that day was slippery, the players could indeed keep their foothold firm and we saw quite a number of solo efforts by players like Machado, Somenath and others.

Santo Mitra's resignation not accepted

EAST BENGAL are now beginning to understand what it means to be without a coach. Club officials have begun to realise that it is no easy task to keep a side in trim, but the moot question is: has Santo Mitra's letter of resignation actually been accepted?

The club's general secretary, Mr Nisith Ghosh, said: "It is definitely a problem without a coach. It is difficult for anyone else to replace a coach at short notice. We have not accepted coach Santo Mitra's resignation as yet. Instead, we have requested him to accompany the team for the Darjeeling Gold Cup in the capacity of coach."

"There are reasons for this which I would not like to discuss but I will stress one point. There is a section which has been 'poisoning' the players, with the result that their playing spirit has been affected. This was amply evident in our League showing. As a matter of fact, before our IFA Shield match against Mafatlal, I was very worried about the narrow escape we had against Aryan in the quarter-finals and so I literally told the boys to play their natural game. I asked them to forget that they were playing for East Bengal. Instead, I instructed them to play for themselves, reminding them that it was their duty to repay those who had inducted them into the team. I was overjoyed when this worked wonders. I really don't blame the boys because I feel they should not be interfered with. There may be rivalry amongst certain club officials but why must it percolate to the players? Surely, the club's prestige comes first. There must be some sacrifices made for the sake of the club.

"Regarding Majid, it is a pity that the player who earned such a name for himself in 1980 seemed to be a misfit this season. It is a mystery as to how this happened but it is a mystery that will have to be solved very soon. Club officials are trying to trace the source of the problem so that Majid regains his form. It was evident after a few League matches this year that Majid suddenly began to slacken. By the time the IFA Shield came around, he was totally off form. We have learnt an important lesson. In future, we will not depend solely on individual stars. To illustrate my point, let me emphasise that the boys did well in the last few League matches and, mind you, we were playing without Majid and Jamshid at the time. We will now have to emphasise on local talent. Because of our over-reliance on individual stars we performed miserably in the Federation Cup and later on in the League as well.

"We will not tolerate players who indulge in politics. If they persist, we will not hesitate to throw them out. We have to maintain discipline. In fact, the only reason we entered the final of the IFA Shield is that we overhauled the team."

A CORRESPONDENT

To conclude, I must say that this was not the first time that the two teams have shared the Shield as joint winners, but surely it was one of the very rare occasions when East Bengal and Mohun Bagan played the Shield final in true competitive spirit. It was an old-fashioned thriller all the way—a neck to neck fight as the result itself testifies

MOHUN BAGAN vs RAJASTHAN

THESE two teams have become renowned as close rivals Over the years, encounters between these sides have been thrillers, with victory margins hanging on the most slender of threads In the IFA Shield final of 1952, Rajasthan were leading by two goals to nil with about 10 minutes to go before the final whistle Mohun Bagan equalised amidst scenes of hysteria but the Shield had to be abandoned when, in the replayed final, both teams remained locked in a goalless draw Then, in 1955, Rajasthan entered the final and ultimately won, defeating Aryan 1 0 in the replayed match That was the last time they ever figured in a Shield final

This year, they came close to taking a berth in the final again leading 2-0 till the interval and 2 1 till seven minutes from the end Mohun Bagan then squandered a penalty when Gautam Sarkar kicked wide but Rajasthan could not maintain the lead, and ultimately lost 2 3 It was the same story in this year's League tie between these two teams Rajasthan were leading by a goal, then Mohun Bagan equalised and ultimately got the match winner through a penalty, by Subrata Bhattacharya

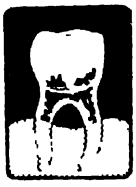
The last time Subrata did not assist his team, Mohun Bagan were thrashed by East Bengal in the Durand (3 0) and by Orkay Mills in the Rovers (4 0) in 1978 Mohun Bagan felt his absence keenly in those matches, just as they did in this match against Rajasthan The captain of the side, Pradip Choudhury, put it bluntly "Subrata is the pivot around which our defence revolves We were not prepared to play this tournament without Subrata I had not played throughout the League, so there was no combination

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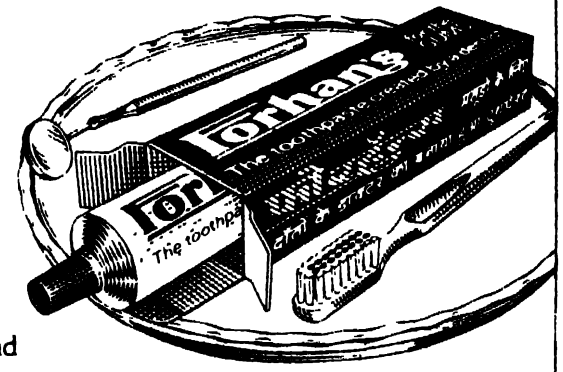
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between Samar Bhattacharya and myself The goals we conceded were our own fault, but we survived to fight another day In this context, I want to mention one thing We are also without some of our regular players, but we did not withdraw from the tournament, as did another club (an obvious reference to Mohammedan Sporting) Whether we win the trophy or not, I think Mohun Bagan has set a fine example That is what one calls tradition"

Mohun Bagan started well and were all over their opponents in the first 10 minutes. They were a trifle unlucky when a beautiful shot by Arup Das hit the corner of the post and ricocheted out with the Rajasthan custodian beaten Suddenly, there seemed to be a transformation in the two sides Rajasthan began dominating and got the first goal Arun Nath, their left winger had changed position and worked his way through the right flank, beating the left back Biswajit Das and sending in a beautiful centre Amit Bagchi, running in between the two stoppers, just nodded in

With six minutes to go before the breather, Rajasthan increased their tally with a goal by Subhas Roy This speedy winger beat Pradip Chowdhury on the right flank, cut in, and with a neat flick placed the ball in the near post The Mohun Bagan custodian, Shivaji Banerjee, is to be blamed to a certain extent for both goals Shivaji should not have allowed the ball to enter the gap through the first post on the second occasion Perhaps he had anticipated Subhas would centre and subsequently positioned himself at the far post

Mohun Bagan began with renewed vigour in the second half They had come back with their old jerseys (discarding the new ones which they had started with) and seemed to have shed their lethargic attitude Pradip Choudhury went for first time clearances, Gautam moved up and down and Habib started playing as the fifth forward The inclusion of Francis De-Souza, in place of Biswajit Bhattacharya, gave the attack more power and thrust Ultimately, the best player in the forward line, Arup, got the first goal Surajit Sengupta sent the ball to Ulaganathan on the wing and a perfect centre by Ulaga was neatly headed home

Arup was deprived of the equaliser when one of his headers hit the upright and then later, he was tripped inside the penalty box by Shyamal Ghosh, the veteran Rajasthan stopper just as he was about to take a shot at goal Arup had only the goalkeeper to beat and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty which, as stated earlier, Gautam Sarkar muffed

Arup paved the way for the equaliser, which was scored by Francis Shyam Thapa (who had replaced Ulaganathan) sent the ball to Arup on the left wing. Arup cut in before centering the ball and Francis was on the spot to nod it home. That was with seven minutes to go for full time but Mohun Bagan struck once more soon after This time it was the veteran Habib who did the damage He received the ball on the top of the box and with an angular left footed shot, he sent the ball scorching to the opposite corner of the net This shot, which left the whole Rajasthan defence stranded, will be talked about by young fans for years to come

Mohun Bagan played better football in the second half, and they looked like a side with a purpose Arup without doubt, played well and he was ably supported by Habib and Francis The two changes made by coach Sankar Banerjee worked well Francis, who was playing after a two month lay off, seemed goal hungry and he had positioned himself well for the equaliser Surajit, again, played well in patches, but he was well guarded by the Rajasthan left-back, Sanjib Bhattacharya Coach Sankar Banerjee said "We realised today how much Bablu (Subrata) means to the team The defence was shaky without him, but they got over that in the second half I made those changes because as it usually happens, if a team is down, it is the senior players with their wealth of experience, who pull the team through That is precisely what happened"

The Rajasthan forward line was penetrative Most of the moves were initiated by their wingers Arun Nath and Subhas Roy Swapan Routh worked hard in the midfield, but the same cannot be said about their defence Perhaps with a little more effort, they could have carried their team through



A balletic scene in front of the Mohun Bagan citadel as Rajasthan's Amit Bagchi scores the first goal

Coach Shyamal Bose said "My boys played well in the first half, but they seemed to lose power and strength in the second Shyamal Ghosh is not young any more and apparently the long journey we had during the tournament seemed to have had an effect on his game If I could have given him some rest, he would have played better In the end, I think luck was not with us"

EAST BENGAL vs MAFATLAL

DESPERATION was writ large on the faces of the East Bengal players when they were down by a goal in the 25th minute of their semi-final against Bombay's Mafatlal The latter's goal came when Keith Swaine moved in with the ball and was deftly intercepted by defender Anudeb Das However, an opportunistic Ratan Thapa availed of the rebound off Das, who tried desperately to clear the ball when on his knees, in the process sustaining an injury which led to his being carried off the field But Thapa did not hesitate and volleyed brilliantly to the far post, beating custodian Biswajit Das

Although the match did not reach great heights it proved that the Bombay outfit was capable of displaying better co ordination and anticipation Their covering was also good Even before they eventually scored, they narrowly missed the goalmouth when right flankman Anand Singh darted through and wrested a pass which Sekharan sent to Dilip Palit

Stung by the reverse, the local stalwarts made a desperate bid for the equaliser Seven minutes later they had a good chance when C B Thapa, who beat a couple of defenders, only had to boot home but instead - surprisingly – he sent a cross to C D Francis which was cleared before there was any threat Again three minutes later, Majid's shot narrowly missed the target However despite the number of lapses, the Mafatlal deep defence was certainly better off

Former Mohammedan Sporting star, the Sikkimese Pem Dorji was exceptionally good His interception and overlapping caused the opposition some worry Hanumant foiled a chance by Francis off Majid (he too saved one on the goalline), while India camp probable Alim Khan headed clear a Majid header off a corner just after resumption

Perhaps the story would have been altogether different had referee Rabi Chakraborty not overlooked a glaring infringement 14 minutes after lemon time Swaine had passed to Ratan Thapa who moved in to strike but a desperate Machado pulled him inside the box Said Mafatlal coach Maqbool Ahmed "Had we got that penalty we would have won the match" As East Bengal's search for the equaliser proved elusive officials began debating as to who should replace C B Thapa a situation only a coach could have handled The football secretary was seen persuading an injured Jamshid to take the field while the latter reluctantly pointed to his ankle The only alternative left was Somnath Banerjee who ultimately emerged as the saviour He latched on to a Machado pass and sent home a rasping volley from a range of 20 yards leaving custodian Victor Saldhana agape This was indeed a gem of a goal Majid eventually headed home the winner off a Francis lob in the dying minutes of the first half of extra time Said East Bengal's general secretary, Nisith Ghosh "Somnath's inclusion in place of Thapa bore fruit His goal was a brilliant one I am happy that we won but we could have prevailed by a larger margin It was a mistake on our part to order the team to warm up 15 minutes before the match in such humid conditions The obvious result was the players' stamina flagged We left out a couple of good players since we wanted a good combination"

"Mafatlal played well but they could not cope with the weather That they are good players was evident with the two goalline saves by Alim Khan and Hanumant This only proves what level of physical fitness they have attained They are always on hand when the situation demands We entered the final because we overhauled our team", he concluded Incidentally, this was the 28th time East Bengal entered the IFA Shield final and the 17th time they are meeting arch rivals Mohun Bagan

Mafatlal coach Maqbool Ahmed commented "The team has been riddled with injuries Our inside-forward Cardoz has just undergone a cartilege operation, Salma Joseph pulled a muscle during the last practice session, right-back Newman was sick In addition, captain Keith Swaine was not totally fit We also have quite a number of new players like Pem Dorji, Alim Khan and Ayaz Hussain, who are good players Had the three played we would have displayed a better brand of football and probably won the match Keith and Anand Singh are good forwards but they were not up to the mark today For the first 60 minutes my players played well I am not saying that we lacked stamina Ranjit Thapa is 41, but he is still absolutely fit He even got the Best Player prize in the cluster fixtures at Malda He can continue for 60 minutes but at this point he slows down After all, he is getting old But let me say something about our opponents A club like East Bengal ought to have performed better They lacked stamina We are not a better side but we play good football. Then again, the players were quite upset with the home crowds shouting Anyway, it was a good match", concluded the Mafatlal coach

EAST BENGAL vs ARYAN

THERE was just no spectator interest in this encounter Perhaps this was occasioned by the exorbitant price of tickets On the other hand, perhaps it was the poor performance of East Bengal in the League that deterred a major section of spectators. But even the handful who witnessed the IFA Shield quarter-final between neighbours East Bengal and Aryan must have gone home questioning their own wisdom at having gone for the match

It was a story of frustration, exasperation—and a great deal of humility—for the skeleton crowd. East Bengal, desperately on the look out for a goal, finally scored in the 55th minute Flankman Francis moved in, sent an angular shot which rebounded off stopper Prangopal Das and opportunistic linkman Machado shot home, the ball swerving in with Aryan custodian Achintya Das off guard

Despite the absence of stopper Monoranjan Bhattacharya and medio Amalraj, East Bengal never really had cause for worry against Aryan. However, the red and-yellow jerseys just could not combine well and lacked thrust Majid, who usually leads the attack was not himself on the day and it was noticeable that the pace of the game slowed whenever he was in possession of the ball Only once, midway through the second half, did he make a brilliant solo move to the opponent's box but an onrushing goalkeeper foiled his attempt "I fully agree I did not perform well In fact, it was one of my worst games This was because of the sultry weather It was a very tiring game," said Majid Basker

Whereas Aryan combined better and played at a faster pace, they lacked the necessary finish Perhaps, had their forwards taken long shots at goal Aryan might have got at least one inside the net When Sankar Sarkar foiled Jamshid inside the box, a counter-attack found Badal Bhattacharya sending a beautiful through pass to striker Shyamal Bhattacharya, whose shot narrowly missed the far post just before lemon time Gopobandhu Saha did not look very confident under the bar

Although the match was confined to the midfield most of the time, Aryan played better and made some stray forays Some of the players claim that Machado's goal was overlooked because the ball had gone out, but Aryan coach Ram Das said "I don't want to comment on the goal All that I can say is we played well and they won. I am happy with my team's performance I agree we played badly in the League This was due to the fact that we lost Pulak Biswas and Krishnendu Roy, both of whom joined the India camp after the first match But we played far better and looked an improved side In the first half, there was not much movement but after the breather we had a couple of chances, our receiving was bad Anyway, the result was sheer bad luck for us"

Fareed was the only player who went all out, while Jamshid was unsportsmanlike

Both new recruits, flankmen C. B. Thapa and Subir Sarkar were fielded, but neither was properly fed. While Sarkar, who replaced Francis in the second half, received only about three passes. Thapa was annoyed about not being fed with sufficient passes "I have had only a day's -practice with the team. I got very few passes but I hope to do better with more practices", said Thapa.

RAJASTHAN vs WARI

BOTH teams had struggled to reach the quarter-finals, each defeating seeded teams in the pre-quarter final stages (as reported in the earlier issue of *Sportsworld*) The long journey from Bankura (for Rajasthan) and Midnapur (for Wari) to Cooch Behar (nearly 18 hours by train) took its toll on the players of both teams and this was only too evident as the match progressed

The initial stages of the first half were dominated by Rajasthan but it was only in the closing minutes of the half that they took the lead, through Amit Bagchi But they could not maintain this margin for long, as Wari equalised seconds before half time After the change of ends, both sides tried their utmost to get into the lead but failed Extra time had to be imposed and in the fifth minute Krishnagopal Choudhury gave Rajasthan the winning goal

The Rajasthan coach, Shyamal Bose said, "It was a fair game which could have gone either way Both teams were exhausted after the long journey The arrangements were very bad The players were told to get ready two hours before the match In a way, we deserved our victory because my players utilised two chances in what was a keenly fought match"

MOHUN BAGAN vs JAMSHEDPUR S.A

SPECTATORS had come expecting the boys from Jamshedpur to put up stiff resistance against the runners-up of the Calcutta League Mohun Bagan After all, the JSA had scored 23 goals and conceded only one Furthermore, in their pre-quarter final match they had soundly thrashed the famed Jagajit Cotton and Textiles Mills, Phagwara 5 0 They fielded a prolific scorer in Vijay Kumar who had scored nine goals in the Shield, but they did not live up to expectations, losing 0-5

Though Mohun Bagan won convincingly, the JSA side did not play as badly as the margin of defeat would suggest They created some openings, and with a bit of luck could have got a few goals Luck has been purposely mentioned because the Mohun Bagan custodian, Jagadish Ghosh, saved the situation for his side on more than one occasion Without belittling Jagadish it must be mentioned that luck did play a part when he executed the saves in question True, he rushed out of his citadel at the right time, but on occasions his legs and outstretched hands prevented the ball from entering the Mohun Bagan net

Mohun Bagan, after a long lay-off, started on a slow but confident note They were without four of their regular stars, Xavier Pius, Mihir Bose, Compton Dutta and Shyamal Banerjee In addition, Sudip Chatterjee was also doing national duty However, the newlook side had played the last few matches of the League and looked quite a capable lot of players, with a good blend of youth and experience

However, they failed to make much headway because their two linkmen, Gautam Sarkar and Md Habib, were not able to function properly Habib has had a longer lay off, because he went home after the match against East Bengal in the League Slowly but surely, this veteran of many a battle began to find his feet and feed his forwards well Midway through the first half, Mohun Bagan got their first goal off a corner The ball came to Subrata Bhattacharya, who lost his balance while trying to control the ball Arup Das, who was nearby, seized the opportunity and gently pushed the ball home

Arup could have increased the tally but he was unlucky when a beautiful left-footed shot from outside the penalty box went over the crosspiece by inches Biswajit Bhattacharya, the other young striker in the team, also had the mortification of seeing his pile-driver hit the upright, but he got the second goal for his side, just after the change of ends A midfield lob went to Habib who headed it down for Biswajit to shoot home with a left-footer

Within the next ten minutes, Mohun Bagan further consolidated their position with two more goals, by Ulaganathan and Arup respectively For the third goal, credit should be given to Biswajit Bose, the young left back. He overlapped and sent a perfect centre to Ulaganathan The latter only had to divert the ball with a header Arup scored the fourth goal for his side after dodging past a couple of defenders

The last goal, however, was definitely the best of the day When Surajit Sengupta received the ball he was near the centre circle but in a brilliant solo effort, he ran down the middle, dribbling past four defenders, on each occasion tempting to the left but actually moving to the right Eventually, with a neat placement he put the ball into the net It was the Surajit of two to three years ago, the artful dodger of the Calcutta Maidan

Subrata Bhattacharya, who was to accompany the Indian team to Pyong Yong, North Korea, as a last minute replacement for the injured Shyamal Banerjee, later that evening, tried desperately for a goal He moved up and down continuously and on one occasion he was unlucky when one of his shots hit the crosspiece He played well and so did the other defenders except right back Sanjib Choudhury who was a bit slow He was replaced by the captain of the side Pradip Choudhury in the second half

Gautam has yet to find the form that one expects of him He was slow especially in the second half, when he failed to move up with the forwards In the forward line Arup played well and did a lot of scheming for the team Surajit played well in patches and Ulaganathan apart from the goal, did hardly anything of note Mohun Bagan coach Sankar Banerjee said "It was not a bad match for us My forward line moved well and there was sufficient speed and power But, I think their players were a bit tired"

Among the JSA players, stopper Subhas Mukherjee, who was in the Asiad coaching camp, shone in the defence line Vijay Kumar looked dangerous and besides being a striker, is also capable of scheming The coach, R Singh said "I think the boys still need some time to get used to playing under adverse conditions We did not play too badly, but then luck was not with us"

Ticket problems

THERE was a tremendous lack of enthusiasm among the sports-loving populace of Calcutta, as far as the IFA Shield was concerned. There are various reasons for this: Pujas, the biggest festival for the Bengalis were in the offing; the matches started at 2.30 pm which hampered attandence as far as office-goers were concerned, but what really played havoc was the exorbitant price of tickets.

The Indian Football Association had fixed a uniform price of all tickets, whether in the members' stand or in the green galleries, at an unusually high rate of Rs. 6. If a Mohun Bagan or East Bengal supporter wanted to see all the matches of his favourite team, he had to pay Rs. 18. In addition to the high rates of the tickets, the arrangements were not very good, to say the least.

The respective clubs were given their quota, which was meant to be distributed among the members and the IFA kept 5,000 for public distribution (except for the final, when there was no public sale) But if one wanted a ticket, one had to go to the association office, some two kilometres from the Maidan. This was the real snag A number of people went to the grounds, only to find to their dismay that there were no counters. That left them with no option but to purchase tickets from the touts at nearly double the price. That, in spite of the galleries being nearly empty!

A CORRESPONDENT

Sportsworld Exclusive

India performed creditably

India's chief coach, P. K. Banerjee analyses the Merdeka tournament

THE Merdeka Tournament, this year, was a very prestigious event as it happened to coincide with the silver jubilee of the championship And perhaps it was in the fitness of things, that the two best teams in the championship --Iraq and Sao Paulo Selections from Brazil--clashed in the final The two teams played a different brand of soccer, the Brazilians definitely more skilful, while the Iraqis relied to a great extent on their body weight They were all very well built, and looked more like wrestlers or weightlifters Both team produced very good soccer in the final and it was ind ed creditable that Iraq held on to the slender 1 0 lead which they snatched in the second minute of the game

These two teams had met earlier, in the group league match, and Brazil won by the odd goal in three During this match, the ground was so slippery that the heavier Iraqis could not control their movements Though they ultimately lost, they definitely forecast the shape of things to come The Brazilians played a revolutionary kind of soccer They did not stick to any strict formation but the general pattern was something like a 2-3-3 2 formation With two sweeper backs moving back and forth, three defenders, three linkmen and two strikers always on the prowl, they were indeed the most impressive outfit and exhibited the best soccer The other teams found it very difficult to cope with their unorthodox style

Coming to the performance of the Indian team Before the start of the tournament it was commonly felt, not only in India but also abroad that we fell in the third category of countries that play football in Asia After our showing in the Merdeka, I think we have been elevated from that level I am not saying that we have reached the first level, but definitely we are in the second category at present

Though there were some experienced footballers in the side who had represented the country in the Asian Games and pre Olympic matches, the trend in modern football is changing and we must play more tournaments in order to feel at home in tournaments of this class On this score we were at a disadvantage because most of the sides had gathered international experience before they took part in the Merdeka tournament

We played pretty well What was most creditable was that we fought in each and every match, but we had to pay for our poor finishing The other teams, with their vast experience in international tournaments, were constantly in action whether it was in defence or attack The Indian players however, took more time to plan attacks and consequently there was more pressure on the Indian defence.

The traditional image of India as a big loser has finally been shattered by our players and though we conceded seven goals, we also scored seven, which was certainly creditable Though the coaches of the Sao Paulo Selections team from Brazil, Iraq and South Korea praised the performance of the Indian footballers, there was no room for complacency We have to improve a lot before the Delhi Asiad as we are still behind the top seven countries of Asia

We are making four changes in the team The side that will play at Pyong Yang, North Korea will be without Parminder Singh, Narendra Gurung, Vijay Kumar and Shyamal Banerjee and they will be replaced by Amalraj, Prasanta Banerjee, Manash Bhattacharya and Subrata Bhattacharya Parminder has injured himself, Narendra is perhaps too slow for international football Vijay Kumar started very well but gradually faded out Shyamal has a serious groin injury

The matches at Pyong Yang will definitely be tougher, but I expect the players to try hard once again, and be as disciplined as they were at the Merdeka There, after a long time, the players played as a well-knit unit, they felt for each other and generally were a big family If we can maintain that, we can perform better I have not stressed on individual performances for the simple reason that I do not want the players' morale to suffer

The AIFF secretary Ashoke Ghosh explains a point to the Indian players after their arrival at the Calcutta Airport



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

The matches

Japan vs Malaysia: Following this, the opening match of the tournament, an aura of sadness enveloped the city as the home team lost to the nimble Japanese. The latter were quick on the ball and the man who did the most damage for the Malaysians was left winger Yokoyama. He not only scored both goals for his side, but constantly harassed the Malaysian defence with his fluent movements. Both goals came before the interval although there were some good attacking moves on both sides.

India vs New Zealand: India were lucky to survive. In the dying seconds, a kick sent goalwards by a New Zealand forward was beaten by the referee's final whistle. New Zealand, who were represented by a second string side, dominated the exchanges, but they failed to take advantage of this superiority, especially in the first half, when they missed a number of chances. The last ten minutes saw truly exciting football as both goalkeepers were kept busy and were always under pressure. India also missed an easy chance when Mihir Bose shot over from close. Bhaskar Ganguly played well under the bar and saved the situation a number of times. But he faltered once and India were lucky to survive.

Thailand vs Singapore. Thailand emerged victorious 3-1, after leading 1-0 at the interval. In fact, the Thais could have won by a larger margin if their forwards had utilised all the openings that came their way.

Japan vs India: Japan were worthy winners in this lively encounter which they won by the odd goal in five. India scored the first and fifth goals while Japan squeezed in the other three. Japan took control of proceedings but India broke through first and shot into the lead. Compton Dutta, who played a superb game, moved up and lobbed the ball into the penalty box, leaving Shabbir Ali with nothing more to do than push the ball in. Japan struck back with a vengeance and scored their three goals in the span of five minutes, all due to lapses on the part of the Indian defenders. The speedy moves by the Japanese players paid dividends. India managed to reduce the margin late in the match when Monoranjan Bhattacharya converted a penalty after Shabbir Ali was brought down inside the box.

Sao Paulo vs Iraq: This was the first of the meetings between the two teams (the other was in the final) and this time the Brazilian outfit won by the odd goal in three. They delighted the crowd with their skill but Iraq fought on, defending their citadel doggedly. L. R. Barbosa of Brazil made quite an impression with his bursts down the right flank and paving the way for the first goal which was scored by J. L. Barbosa. That was in the fourth minute in the first half. They tried to increase their margin, but a counter-attack, in the 13th minute of the second half spearheaded by Mahadi Abdul Sabah gave Iraq the equaliser. Nine minutes later, Brazil got the match winner, through a header by Kuptei. Iraq tried to get the second equaliser but their efforts were in vain.

Indonesia vs United Arab Emirates: Playing neat, purposeful football, Indonesia put it across UAE by a sizeable 5-2 margin. On a heavy ground, the Indonesians were able to combine well and displayed their skills with Stefanus Sirey, their left winger, scoring three of his team's five goals.

South Korea vs Singapore. Champions on a number of occasions, South Korea, beat Singapore 2-0 without too much of an effort. Singapore tried their best but most of the time they had to fight from behind and therefore relied to a great extent on spoiling tactics. The Koreans played with short passes along the ground and enjoyed midfield supremacy, where Lee Kang Joo was a tireless worker. Hwang Suk Kun scored the first goal and paved the way for the second which was scored by Byong Joo.



Harjinder Singh, the Punjab striker performed creditably in the Merdeka.

New Zealand vs Malaysia: The home team received another setback when they lost to New Zealand by a solitary goal. But it must be said to their credit that they fought till the very last and refused to give up easily. With this loss, the chances of the home team making it to the semi-final dwindled considerably. The Kiwis shot into the lead through Taylor who sent in a sharp header. Malaysia tried desperately for the equaliser, but their best efforts were repeatedly thwarted.

India vs UAE: The heavy ground conditions, caused by rain prior to the match, helped India considerably to beat UAE by a two-goal margin. Bidesh Bose on the left flank led the Indian attack and his speed had the Arab defenders constantly on the wrong foot. India attacked the Arab citadel from the very beginning and had it not been for the woodwork, Shabbir's shot would have entered the net. India did not have to wait too long to take the lead, which came through Harjinder Singh. UAE tried desperately to come back into the game but the Indian defence held out. Xavier Pius replaced Vijoy Kumar and soon settled for India with a rising which centered the top of the net.

Sao Paulo vs S. Korea: In one of the most keenly awaited matches, the Brazilians were quick to adapt to the slushy ground conditions and marched ahead of their opponents by virtue of a 2-0 margin. They chose to push the ball along the ground, scoring in the 13th minute of the first half. Stopper Jarbas, who has acquired a name for himself when it comes to spot kicks, sent one across which was somehow sent for a corner by the Korean custodian. Cabinho scored from the resultant kick. Some inept shooting by their forward deprived the Koreans of the equaliser, and soon after they conceded their second goal, which was scored by Luis Barbosa.

New Zealand vs Indonesia: The goal less encounter was an absorbing affair with the advantage swinging from one side to the other. The rival goalkeepers were constantly under pressure and had to be extremely careful, lest the ball slip from their grasp. Both sides tried their best, but the ground, which was very heavy and sticky, did not help them at all.

Malaysia vs Indonesia: The home crowd finally had something to cheer about as their country beat Indonesia 2-0. The losers played well and controlled the midfield but lack of scoring powers did nothing to help their cause. On the other hand, Malaysia fought on gamely and scored both their goals from counter-attacks.

Sao Paulo vs Singapore. With this victory, the Brazilian outfit assured themselves of a berth in the semi final. They were far superior to Singapore and the 3-0 victory is not at all a true indication of the match.

Japan vs UAE: Japan were indeed lucky to walk away with two points from their 3-2 victory. With a little bit of luck, UAE could very well have snatched a point. In fact, it was UAE who took the lead, but this was soon neutralised from a very doubtful penalty kick. Then Japan went into the lead, but UAE equalised soon after. This was a vintage see saw battle which ultimately saw Japan going into the lead in the closing stages of the match.

India vs Indonesia: India had to enter the field without their captain Shabbir Ali, who had been shown the yellow

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card twice (against Japan and UAE), but this brought to the forefront another Bengal player Krishnendu Roy, who scored the winning goal on his debut for India Both teams started cautiously, constantly on the lookout for openings. Bidesh was a constant threat with his speed and he was well supported by Compton who moved up to help the forwards It was from one of these over-lapping moves, four minutes from full time, that India got the all important goal It was from Compton's pass that Krishnendu scored the match-winner

UAE vs New Zealand: The result came as a shock when UAE, at the bottom of the table, upset New Zealand by a solitary goal victory This upset result, a maiden victory for the Arabs, gave the other teams fresh hope of qualifying for the semi final

Iraq vs Thailand· This was a classic example of cat-and-mouse as Iraq chalked up the largest margin in the tournament, a 7-1 win against Thailand As the score itself suggests, it was a totally one-sided affair

UAE vs Malaysia: If the home team had won this tie they would have had a chance of entering the semi-final UAE won by a solitary goal and Malaysia were thus thrown out of the championship The Malaysians tried their best but the rugged Arab defence withstood all pressure and went in for some determined raids The goal came three minutes before the final whistle, depriving the home team of the chance of a draw On the other hand, UAE finished their matches with a creditable victory

New Zealand vs Japan: Knowing they had to win to keep themselves in the running for a semi-final berth, New Zealand went all out and were successful in beating Japan by a 1 0 margin Both teams had their chances and ultimately it was in the fitness of things that the hardworking Nelson scored the goal for his side New Zealand completed their engagements with a hope of making it to the semis

Iraq vs S. Korea: This crucial match, with both teams on the lookout for a berth in the semi-final, ended the way it should have—in a draw Iraq dominated most of the attack in the first half, but luck deserted them and they had to change ends trailing by a goal. The muddy ground played a part in the scoring of this goal. The ball stuck in front of the Iraqi goal and before it could be cleared, Byong Joo, the Korean right striker, shot home Iraq came back with renewed vigour in the second half and ultimately got the equaliser through Foizal Aziz By virtue of a better goal difference, Iraq had a better chance of qualifying than the S Koreans, so the draw went in their favour

Japan vs Indonesia. The last match for both teams, ended as expected, in a victory for Japan But the two goals they scored were not without a struggle They had to fight all the way and only in the latter stages of the second half did the goals come It was a rough match and the brace of goals which came within minutes of each other, assured Japan of the top place in group A and eliminated Indonesia from the championship

Sao Paulo vs Thailand· The Sao Paulo Selection side ended their league engagements on a very impressive note, having won all their matches, scoring 12 goals and conceding only two Thailand were able to withstand the pressure in the first half, but in the second there was no stopping the Brazilians They scored as many as five goals, letting in only one Their skilful players always had an edge and they thoroughly deserved the victory

India vs Malaysia : India needed a draw in the last match of this group to enter the semi final, and a draw they got, thanks mainly to Harjinder Singh who scored both the goals for his side On both occasions, India had to fight back from behind The game itself was an ordinary affair, except for the individual brilliance of Harjinder His first goal was a treat as he beat a couple of defenders and scored from an impossible angle with a delicate shot Another player who posed a lot of problems for the Malaysians was Mihir Bose with his tenacious tackles India thus entered the semi-final narrowly pipping New Zealand on a better goal difference

S Korea vs Thailand Thailand held the mighty South Koreans to a draw, fighting tooth and nail after they had shot into the lead in the first half They held on to the lead for some time but ultimately the more skilful Koreans got the equaliser in the second half.

Iraq vs Singapore After facing some initial resistance from lowly placed Singapore, in the last match of the group, Iraq came into their element, swamping Singapore 4-0 They thus finished second in the group

Iraq vs Japan (semi-final) The well built players from Iraq showed their class in this encounter and by virtue of their 2-0 victory entered the final for the third time in as many appearances They played with sheer determination that they made Japan look like an ordinary side They shot into the lead in the eighth minute through Ali Hussain, who sent the ball home with a powerful grounder The Japanese tried their level best but they had hardly any answers to the quick-moving Iraqis Gradually Iraq looked as though they were over-running their opponents and they put the finishing touches to their territorial supremacy by banging in their second goal in the 61st minute After his colleagues had done the spadework, Faizal Aziz provided the finishing touches

Sao Paulo vs India (semi-final)· Though the Brazilians won by a 2 0 margin the match was far from being an easy affair India were never overawed by their formidable opponents and in fact, in the initial stages of the match, it was the Indians who held sway with their dribbling But they could not convert their supremacy into goal Their shots were either too weak or they were not positioned well enough to beat the Brazilian custodian But the Brazilians broke the stranglehold and shot into the lead through Tyco, who worked his way up from the left and shot in from a near zero angle That was in the closing stages of the first half and they further consolidated their position when Luis Barbosa snatched a ball from Prasun Banerjee, went through and shot home India tried in vain to come back into the match For India, Harjinder shone with his crisp movements and neat dribbles

Iraq vs Sao Paulo (final): The two teams had met in an earlier group league encounter which the Brazilians had won But it was just the other way around this time Iraq winning by a solitary goal After scoring the eventual winner in the second minute of the match, through Falah Hassan, Iraq hung onto the lead with a great deal of determination The match which was marred by rough tackles and frayed tempers, saw different approaches from both teams Iraq emerged lucky in their third attempt, winning the championship in its silver jubilee year

A CORRESPONDENT

Results at a glance

Group A	Japan	India	N.Z	UAE	Ind	Mal.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan		3-2	0-1	3-2	2-0	2-0	5	4	0	1	10	5	8
India	2-3		0-0	2-0	1-0	2-2	5	2	2	1	7	5	6
New Zealand	1-0	0-0		0-1	0-0	1-0	5	2	2	1	2	1	6
UAE	2-3	0-2	1-0		2-5	1-0	5	2	0	3	6	10	4
Indonesia	0-2	0-1	0-0	5-2		0-2	5	1	1	3	5	7	3
Malaysia	0-2	2-2	0-1	0-1	2-0		5	1	1	3	4	6	3

Group B	Brazil	Iraq	S Korea	Thailand	Singapore	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil		2-1	2-0	5-1	3-0	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Iraq	1-2		1-1	7-1	4-0	4	2	1	1	13	4	5
S.Korea	0-2	1-1		1-1	2-0	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Thailand	1-5	1-7	1-1		3-1	4	1	1	2	6	14	3
Singapore	0-3	0-4	0-2	1-3		4	0	0	4	1	12	0

Bishan Singh Bedi wants me out

HARESH MUNWANI interviewed Yograj Singh shortly after his exclusion from the North Zone team for the Deodhar Trophy

"EVERY single member of the Haryana team is fed up with the way the selection committee is conducting its business. Everything depends on the whims and fancies of the selectors. If this trend of victimisation of players continues, a time will come when there is bound to be a direct clash. Flashpoint is not very far away. In the not too distant future I can assure you that the boys will get together and do something to combat what is going on.

"We will soon have no choice but to take appropriate steps. We shall have to show our hand and that is the time we shall fight back. We are not children, we are Ranji Trophy players. Surely we deserve to be treated like adults. If these hire and fire policies continue, there will soon be some fireworks."

This was no threat. It was an outpouring of despair and disgust on the part of Yograj Singh Bundhel, the burly 24 year old Haryana all rounder who was recently dropped from the North Zone team to play in the Deodhar Trophy. Everybody's life involves certain ups and downs but the frequency of these variations in the life of this young man would make anyone's head swing. The crest of the wave, for Yograj Singh, was undoubtedly his inclusion in the side to tour Australia and New Zealand last winter, culminating in his debut Test appearance in the first Test against the Kiwis. This then is the time for the trough. His being dropped from the North Zone team was a bombshell that hit him extremely hard.

According to Yograj he was told by Ravinder Chadha who represented Haryana at the zonal committee meeting – that Bishan Singh Bedi (Punjab), Wing Commander Durrani (Services) and Mohammed Rauf (Jammu and Kashmir) had ganged up to shut the door in Yograj's face. It also seems that Chadha and Vijay Mehra were in a minority at the meeting in question.

Retorts the young man: "Does my exclusion mean that 35 year old Bhaskar Ghosh and Iqbal have more potential than I do? Surely I am better than they are. In my opinion the whole thing boils down to a personality clash."

"Bishan Singh Bedi wants me out because he feels that I am Sunil Gavaskar's candidate. He is of this opinion because Sunny backed me all along and took me on the tour of Australia and New Zealand. Bedi is upset because he does not like Gavaskar, but why should I suffer because of their animosity? This all boils down to one thing: the battle of the big fish. Why is it necessary then to harpoon the small fish? My only fault is that I have no fault.

"Bedi refers to me as 'Gavaskar's yes man'. The fact is that I went to a Christian school and they taught me to call people 'sir'. I admit that I call Sunil 'sir' but for that matter I call Vishwanath, Kirmani and Ghavri the same. This does not mean that I am



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

bowing and scraping in front of them. I just do it because I respect them. It is a courtesy and nothing else.

"If one is to go by Bedi's definition of a yes man, there are several questions that need to be answered. Madan Lal should never have played for India. What was the exact relationship between Bedi and Madan Lal? Bedi, like Gavaskar, is a truly great player. Why then does he insist on going around mud slinging? The latest target in his sights is Sunil Gavaskar. By conducting himself in such a fashion, Bedi does not realise that he is tarnishing his own image as one of India's greatest spinners. It is not fit, nor is it proper for a man who holds the record among Indian bowlers for the highest number of Test wickets to behave in such a fashion.

"What is Bedi trying to get at? Is he implying that Gavaskar does not understand cricket? That Sunil would select a man against the interest of the side is unbelievable." As if to prove his point, Yograj emphasised: "Do you know, Bishan once told me—in an obvious reference to my friendship with the people from Bombay and the job I have with a Bombay firm—'You are in the wrong hands. Resign from your job in Bombay, otherwise things could turn out to be difficult for you'. Bishan did not exactly spell it out, but the message came through loud and clear."

YOGRAJ is also unsatisfied with the role played by selector Ravinder Chadha. "I am confident that he did not press my case. Let's say it suited Chadha to see me dropped. When your own man on the selection committee does not bother to back your case, why bother to blame others?"

In fact, Yograj queries Chadha's very participation in the meeting in question. "Normally Ranbir Singh Chaudhari represents the Haryana Cricket Association at selection meetings. Who authorised Chadha to attend? In what capacity was he at that meeting? The moment I knew that he and not Ranbir Singh would be representing Haryana, I knew something was up. Therefore, I was not surprised when my name did not figure in the team list. This was a planned conspiracy, the motive being to keep me out at all costs."

"When I asked Chadha why he had attended the meeting he replied that it had been decided that only those people who had played first class cricket would be included on selection committees. I then pointed out to him that Wing Commander Durrani had not played first class cricket. For that matter, I doubt whether he has ever held a bat in his life. He is a hockey man. In that case what was he doing at the selection meeting? Chadha had no answer to this. His silence said a lot of things instead."

Yograj and Chadha fell out in 1977. Tracing the cause of the rift, Yograj said: "At that time Chadha was everything in Haryana cricket. He was the captain, the selector – in short he controlled it all. He was the be all and end all of the game in the State. He liked to have people on their knees in front of him and did all in his powers to encourage sycophants. Apart from him, there were two other all rounders in the team—Kapil and I. He decided to get me out since my inclusion would only have served to upset his plans. Since he was all-powerful, there was no one who could question his actions."

"At this stage he took the law into his own hands. He began asking me for all sorts of things, all the time dangling the bait of a place in the State side in front of me." When asked to be more specific, Yograj replied: "I have a petrol pump. Chadha asked me to supply him with free petrol. This was

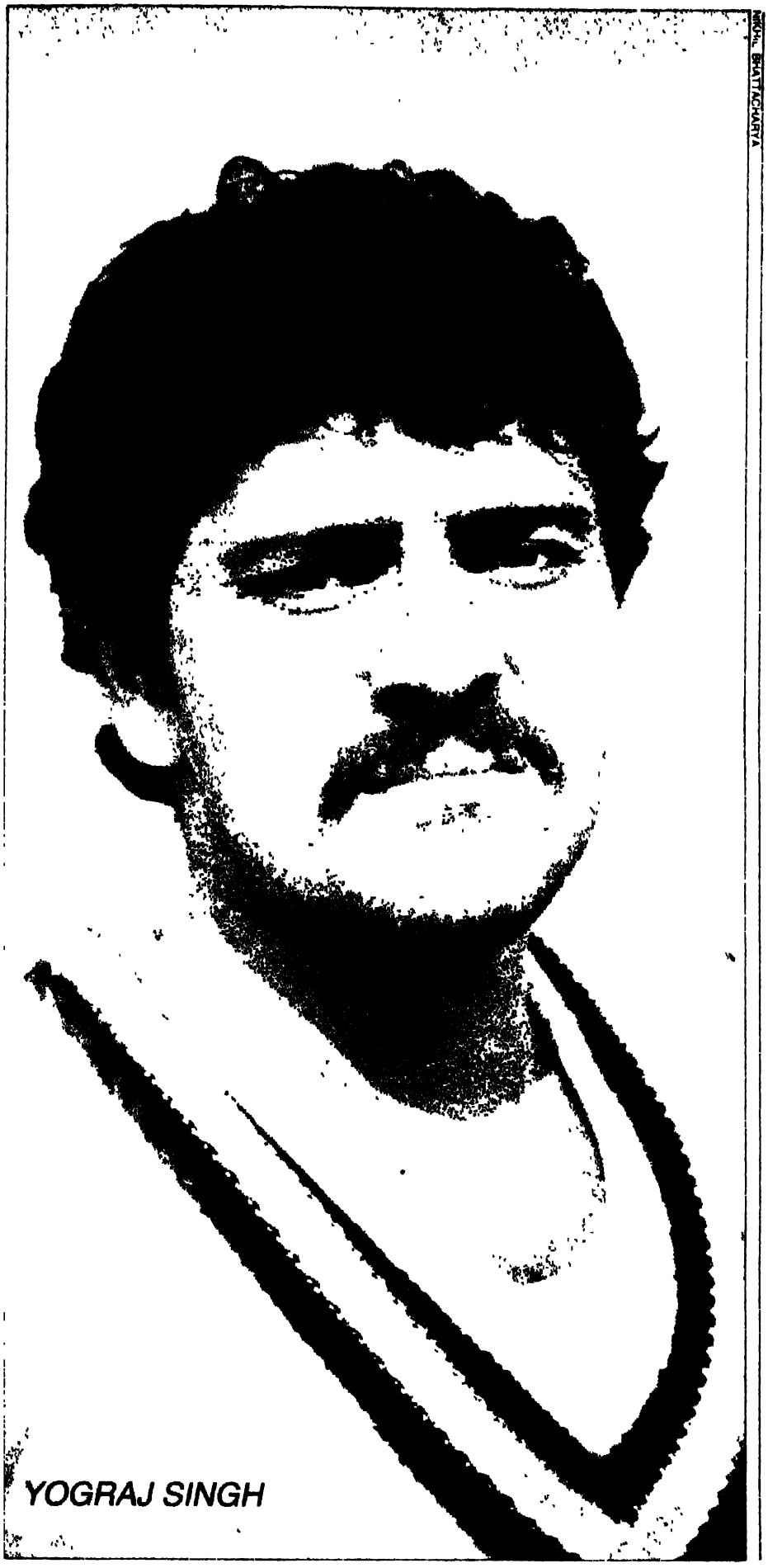


PHOTO: BHATTACHARYA

YOGRAJ SINGH

"Next, they brought flimsy charges against me, saying that I had stolen table tennis bats and eaten someone's sweetmeats. Then I was asked to attend a meeting where these matters were to be discussed. I attended the meeting all right, but I stood for one and a half hours. No one invited me to sit. It was a hot afternoon, but it did not occur to any of the people present at that meeting, to offer me a glass of water. As if this was not humiliation enough, they decided in their wisdom that I was not allowed to enter the Chandigarh Stadium or practise there. Disgusted, I sent in my resignation letter and that seemed like the end of the story.

'However, my self-imposed exile ended when Kapil approached me and told me to bury the past and start all over again. By this time he was a national player and had a new status. I threw my support behind Kapil and soon after, I was selected for the tour of Australia and New Zealand. This enraged the officials of the Haryana Cricket Association as they felt that I was being encouraged by the Bombay people.

'They have been waiting for a chance to clip my wings and what better fashion to do this than to exclude me from the North Zone team? Now I am fed up. I have told Kapil not to bother about me but to leave me to my fate instead. Why involve that poor fellow in all this?'

Yograj feels that his home State Haryana has tremendous potential. "Of late we have reached the semi-finals of the Ranji Trophy, which no other side from the North except Delhi has done. There are some very promising young players but the pity of it is that most of the officials in the Haryana Cricket Association do not give a damn. As long as you have people like Ravinder Chadha or Desh Prem Azad, there is no way young cricketers are going to prosper in this State.

As for my own future, I am not sure what I am going to do. I would rather not go to Bombay because this would mean leaving my aged parents and the family business. The future looks bleak and provides no hope. If there are going to be all these hassles, one might well question the wisdom of continuing to play cricket."

against my principles and so I refused point blank. Believe me, this man would not stop at exploiting anyone if he had the chance.

"I paid a stiff price for my principles. I did not play a match for two years. Do you know how Chadha took his revenge? One day, a Haryana Ranji Trophy match clashed with a University game and under Chadha's instructions I played the university game. On my return, I found that I was being served with a show cause notice demanding to know why I had played the 'varsity match without informing the Haryana Cricket Association. That is the sort of man he is.

Sportsworld Special

Deodhar continues to be a farce

HARESH MUNWANI

FOR some reason or the other the Deodhar Trophy cricket tournament has always been a farce. This year was no exception. In view of the three one day internationals which we have to play against Keith Fletcher's Englishmen, one has found it difficult to appreciate the actual reasons as to why this tournament is not taken seriously either by the Board or the players.

The hue and cry that resulted after Gavaskar had announced that Ghavri, Patil, Shastri and himself would not participate in the Deodhar Tournament this year provided the only real, although negative, publicity for the event. Except for this, the Deodhar Trophy would have gone unnoticed as it has been for the last eight years.

The trouble started brewing from the moment the draw was made. According to the draw South Zone and West Zone were placed in the same group. There is nothing wrong in this except that last year South and West were the winners and runners-up respectively.

It does not require much knowledge to understand that as per the rules they should have been placed in separate groups. This error, whereby South and West would have clashed in the semi finals, was brought to the notice of the Board, the controlling body of the game, at least two weeks before the commencement of the Deodhar Trophy and yet the Board did not rectify the error. Was it due to complacency or helplessness? Perhaps the Board can best answer this.

Who is responsible for this slip? Polly Umrigar, a member of the programmes and fixtures committee, said "Our job is to determine the dates and venues of the matches. The only other thing we decide is, for example, last year's winners will play team A and the runners up will play team B. It is the duty of the Board Secretary to fill in the names of the teams in the draw."

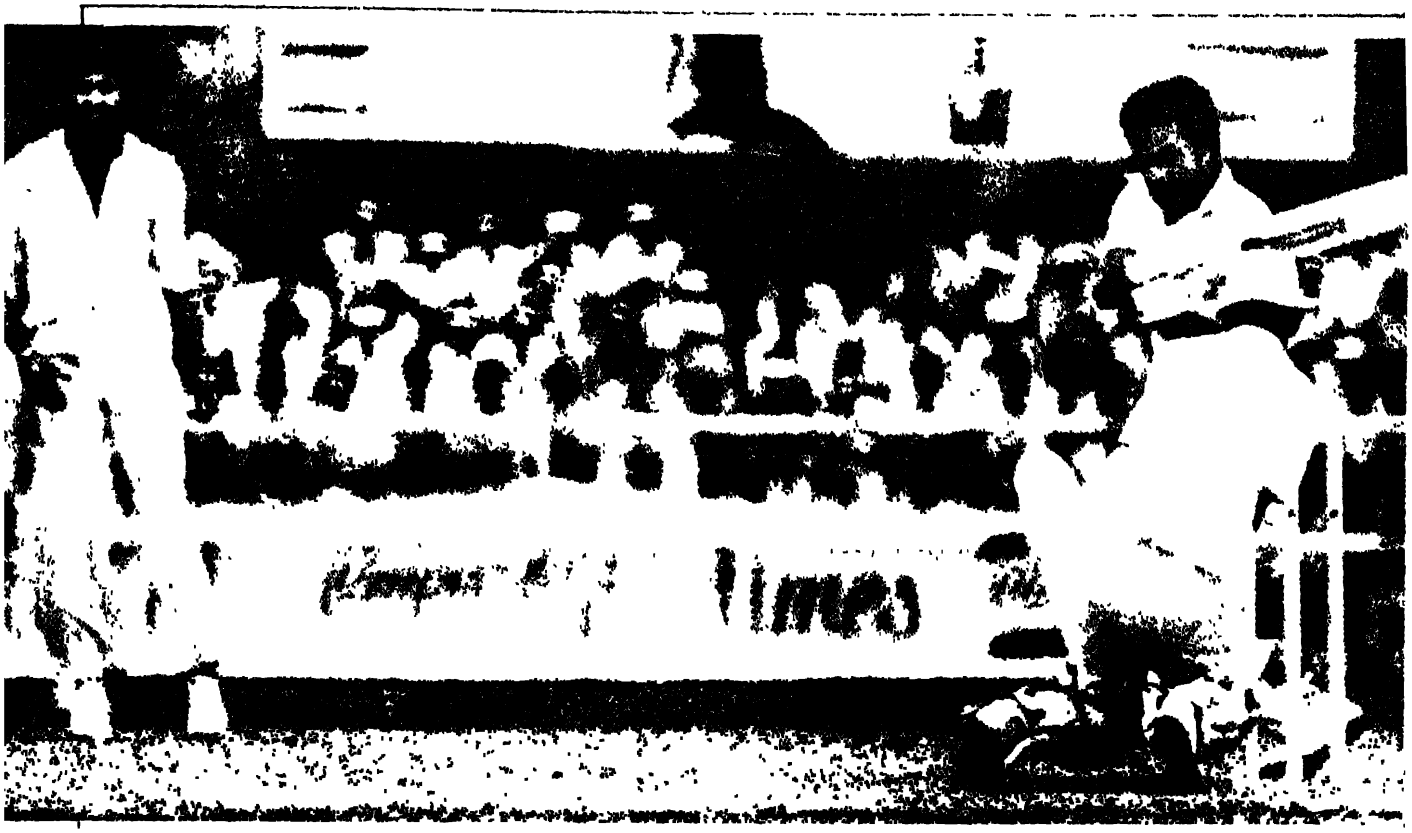
Board Secretary, A. W. Kanmadikar revealed, "I really do not know how this happened. I have called for last year's records. It was only when the Press wrote about it that I became aware of the error. Their particular details were not with me at the time of the draw."

This year the Deodhar tournament was pruned to 50 overs a side as compared to 60 overs last year. This required the fielding side to bowl 50 overs at a stretch, which worked out on an average to three and a half hours' play. Next there was an adjournment for lunch after which the other side fielded. And with temperatures in the region of 33 degrees Celsius, it was cruel and heartless to expect the players to carry on for 50 overs without any break other than the one for drinks.

It was in this context that one senior cricketer heaved a sigh of relief and said, "It was just as well that no one collapsed because the Punjab Cricket

Sanjeeva Rao of Central Zone in as a ball to leg side in the match against East Zone





[illegible] Tendulkar flicks to square leg

Association had not made any provision for a stretcher."

As a result, if good performances were not forthcoming in Chandigarh where the Deodhar Trophy was being conducted, the reasons lay in other directions apart from the unsuitability of Indian cricketers at this kind of a game. The powers that be may perhaps like to consider the alternative of night games.

Coming to the tournament itself, South Zone retained the Deodhar Trophy when they beat Central Zone by 113 runs. The large margin in the result of a game of this nature perhaps best emphasises the difference in the two sides. With seven Test players among their ranks, South Zone were never hard pressed by Central Zone who did not have a single Test player in their side. Moreover, with the presence of Brijesh Patel and Kirmani, both highly successful and experienced in limited-overs cricket, the final result was not contrary to expectation, hence not surprising.

Ravi Shastri turns back to see his leg stump uprooted by a delivery from Sarnath



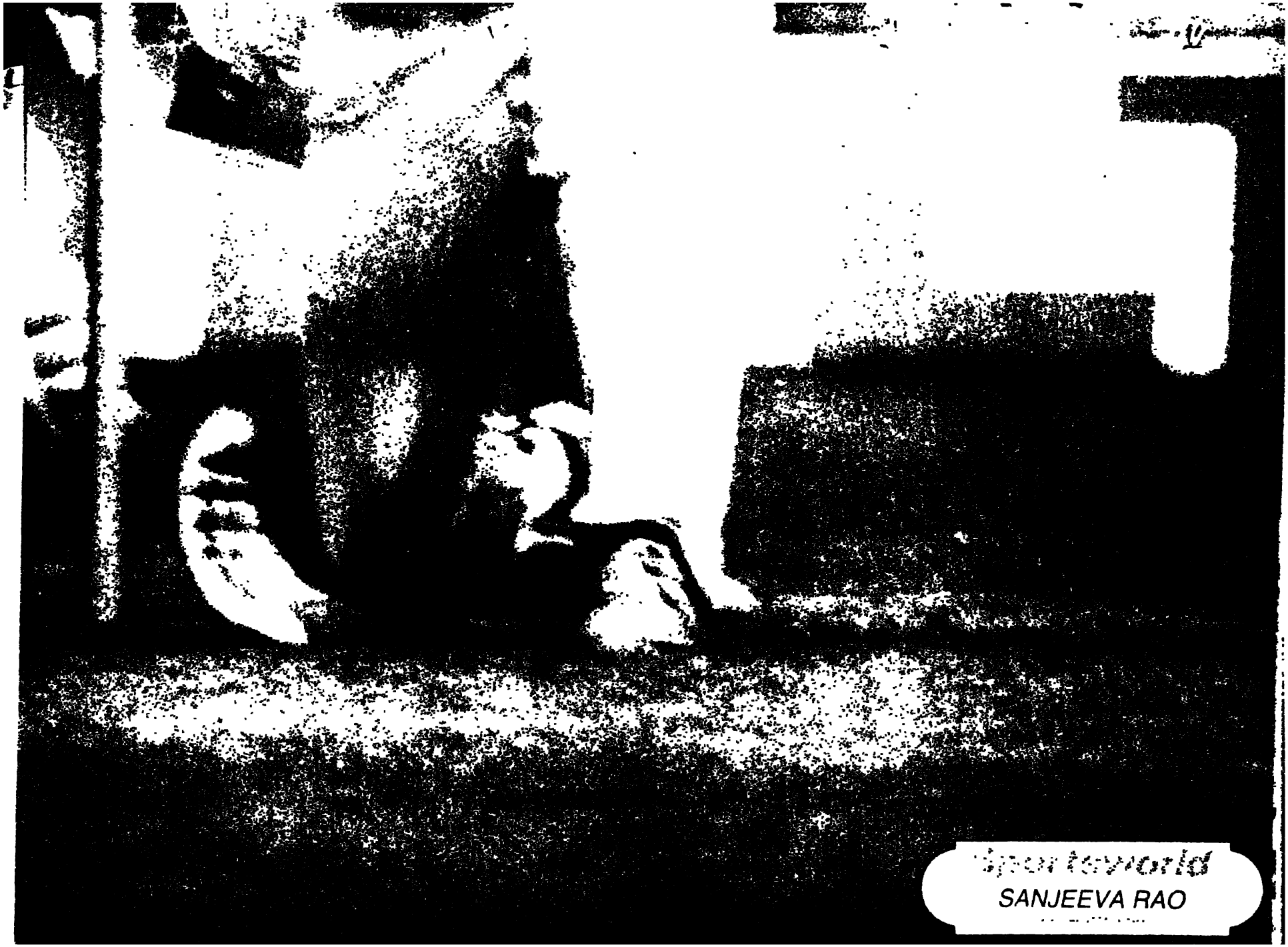
Sanjeeva Rao, the Central Zone captain won the toss and put the South Zone into bat first. He reckoned, "The wicket was soft and had a few wet spots on it. If my bowlers exploit it and capture two or three early wickets, South could come under pressure. With this end in view, I opted to field. I realised that South Zone was a very strong side and that it was not possible to bowl them out in the stipulated overs. So my strategy was to contain them and, if we got a few wickets in the first hour, while the wicket had some life in it, we would have had an outside chance of making a match of it."

Unfortunately the Central Zone bowlers, Rajeshwar Vats, Anil Mathur and Aslam Ali, were not able to maintain much control over line and length and as a result the South openers, Shivaramakrishnan and Srikkanth, took the initiative. The former in particular was middling the ball from the word go and seemed to revel in such a situation.

In seven overs the score became 34, and though the ball was occasionally stopping due to the wet patches there was no cause for worry. The left-handed Shivaramakrishnan was on the lookout for runs all the time and Vats beat him twice with deliveries outside the off stump.

Meanwhile Srikkanth was showing his penchant for runs in the region of deep square leg. And with the Central bowlers in an obliging mood, Srikkanth was receiving his fair share of short balls outside the leg-stump.




SANJEEVA RAO

With the South Zone score at 68, spinner Gopal Sharma was invited to bowl. With both the batsmen in full cry, Yajurvindra Singh conceded 10 runs in the 20th over which included five wides and the score, later reported as 100 for 1, left many in the Parade Ground in awe. Srinivasan and Srikkanth were stumped well by Yajurvindra Singh when Srikkanth's 48 came off 66 deliveries.

Two overs later Srinivasan threw up his bat asked for some water. The batsman tried to smack the next ball from Gopal Sharma to mid wicket but unfortunately for him the ball did not rise as much as he expected and was bowled for 54 in a total of 109. Vishwanath joined Srinivasan at this stage.

Gopal Sharma drew Vishy out but Ved Raj failed to collect the ball on the leg side and wasted a stumping chance. But Vishwanath did not stay long. After just eight runs he spooned a return catch to Hans. The ball actually popped up after being deflected from the bat on to the special pads most cricketers are wearing these days.

Said Vishy, "That is the disadvantage of wearing these pads. The ball does take off after hitting them. I have got out thrice due to these pads. But I am not going to stop wearing them as they are light and comfortable. Besides, they are short and when you take into account my height, normal pads can be cumbersome."

The 200 of the innings came in the 43rd over. And with Hans completing his allotted 10 overs for the impressive figures of 2 for 25, Central were in for a leather hunt. With Brijesh Patel and Roger Binny at the crease the score mounted at brisk rate. Patel had one six and five fours. Except for one boundary less Binny matched Brijesh stroke for stroke. In the end, Patel was unbeaten with 54 while Binny departed after contributing 37.

Central's reply to South Zone's 260 rose and sank with their opening batsman and captain Sanjeeva Rao. Thanks to his consistency in the earlier games against East and North when he got 104 and 78, Central made the final.

With Sanjeeva gone in the second over and the loss of two more wickets by the time the score had barely reached 14, Central were up against it. But Vishwanath, the South skipper, well aware of the vagaries of this game, kept things under control.

Though Sunil Chaturvedi and Ved Raj tried to save Central from being bowled out in 50 overs, South were very much home. Vishwanath relaxed his hold in the closing stages only by coming on to bowl his slower stuff. The crowd thirsting for thrills became satisfied when Vishy captured four wickets in three overs. With three victims succumbing to the guile of Vishy's last over, Central came crumbling down for 147.

Earlier South trounced West Zone. Aunshuman Gaekwad won the toss and decided to bat. Vishwanath confessed that he would have done the same thing had he won the toss. Any visions that West might have entertained of laying the foundation for a reasonable target soon evaporated. In just the fifth ball of the match Binny moved one sharply in to trap Gaekwad leg before. Ghulam Parkar fell at 30 and Dilip Vengsarkar was joined by Sandeep Patil.

Sandeep lived up to his reputation. From the moment he arrived at the wicket he attacked in style. All bowling came alike to him. It appeared as it were he was practising at Shivaji Park Gymkhana. A thumping drive down the wicket, hoisting a Srinath delivery over mid wicket and an extra cover drive—all were executed in characteristic fashion. Patil picked up the ball very early and seemed to have ample time to decide where to place it. When Patil fell in the 16th over the West



Kapil Dev in action during his knock of 54 runs.



Ravi Shastri goes for a lofty heave.



Ved Raj tumbles at a ball Surinder Khanna of North Zone is the batsman

total reached a very healthy 80

After Patil's display of consummate ease Vengsarkar and Yajurvendra Singh seemed to be making heavy weather of it Both fell to some clever bowling by Shivlal Yadav in identical fashion. By capturing the wicket of Gunjal, the Hyderabad off spinner neutralised the advantage West had secured through Sandeep In his own way Yadav proved that a spinner can be effective in one day cricket.

Rain came down in the 32nd over and it was decided that each side would bat 39 overs to compensate for the time lost due to rain On resumption Raju Bhalekar and Ravi Shastri showed a better understanding of the nuances of a limited-overs game than the earlier batsmen and gave the West batting good momentum But the West were unable to last out the overs and herein lies another lesson for them

Chasing a total of 171, Srikkanth was circumspect Ghavri was off the target while Balwinder Sandhu concentrated on moving the ball, thereby comprising in line and length

But the turning point of the game occurred when Vishwanath mishit a ball from Sandeep Patil only to lob a simple catch to square-leg Ravi Shastri was under it when inexplicably Zulfiqar Parkar charged from his position as wicket keeper shouting "Mine, mine" The catch was not held It was bad cricket At this stage Vishwanath was on five Had Vishwanath's catch been held South would have been 61 for 4, and the game could have swung at that stage

Under the circumstances Shastri and Patil were not giving too much away Shastri in particular was very dangerous. Brijesh Patel chanced his arm against the Young India captain only to give a catch to Gaekwad.

With Binny and Narasimha Rao falling in the same over, Shastri had just one more of his allotted overs to go Kirmani and Srikkanth ensured that no further damage occurred In fact after the Tamil Nadu opener made his exit the situation required all the experience of Kirmani and Yadav to see South through

As for the match between Central and North, Chauhan was having problems with his timing in the first match of the season Surinder Khanna with his improvised style of batting proved that one-day cricket is his cup of tea He was run out while attempting a second run The crucial time that he wasted by waiting at the bowlers end after completing the first run sound his death knell

The middle order batsmen Mohinder Amarnath, Yashpal Sharma and Kirti Azad were not able to break free They were heavy footed and for reasons best known to them were over cautious The Central Zone bowling and fielding seemed to derive inspiration from the respect Chetan, Mohinder, Kirti and Yashpal were displaying. Except perhaps for Chetan the other three are known to be big hitters Runs were at a premium and as a consequence after as many as 38 overs, North's aggregate reached a miserable 122

It was at this stage that Kapil Dev walked in and what followed next was an innings of sheer power I do not think the local fans of Chandigarh would have ever forgiven Kapil had he failed here Moreover his batting also helped raise the spirits of his own team mates Aided by Ashok Malhotra, who made 22, Kapil was averaging nine runs an over His hurricane innings of 57 came in a mere 35 deliveries and included three sixes and three fours.

Entirely due to a captain's knock, North finished the 50 overs with the score reading 227 for 7 It was a safe total keeping in view North's varied bowling strength and Central's brittle batting

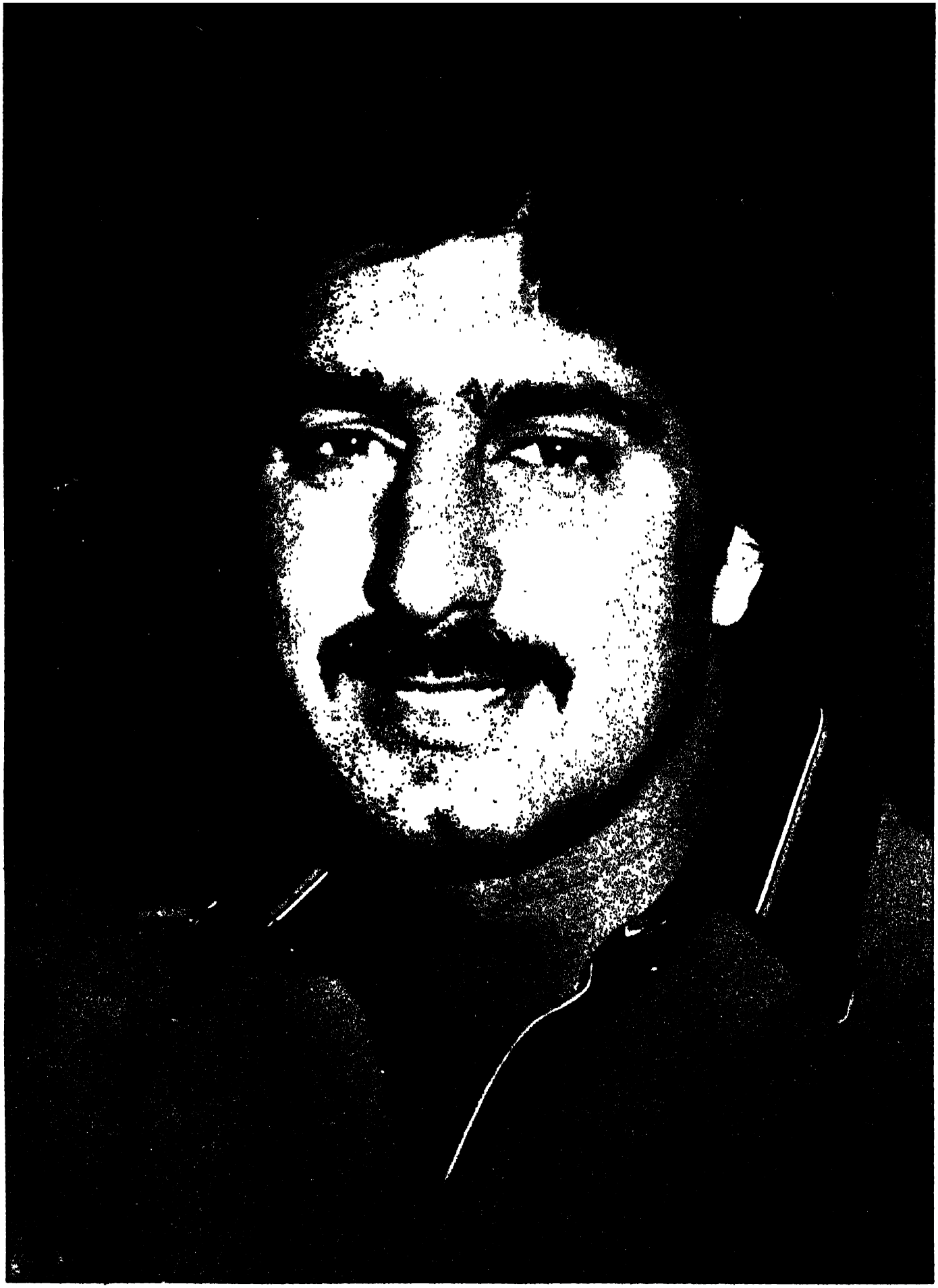
Sanjeeva Rao, like his counterpart, held the innings together Neither Kapil, Mohinder Madanlal, nor Rakesh seemed to trouble him Blessed with a compact defence and neat strokes, Sanjeeva was the only player in the tournament to enhance his chances of playing in the higher grades of cricket

With five of their batsmen back in the pavilion for 105 Central's chances of making it were remote After all they had no Kapil to boost their morale But sensing that rain was imminent, Sanjeeva stepped up the run rate Under the rules if rain causes stoppage of play while the second side is batting, the number of runs scored in the completed overs would decide the issue Rao's task was made easy by the knowledge that North had averaged a paltry three runs an over at the corresponding stage

The rain gods smiled at Central and it started drizzling in the course of the 39th over. A strong sandstorm blew across the ground Quite a few shamianas collapsed under the fury of the wind Play was abandoned with 35 minutes still left When score books were compared Central had reached 134 in 38 overs as compared to 122 by North It was an unfortunate twist of luck for North

Sanjeeva Rao scored the only century of the tournament against East Zone Central scored 188 for 4 wickets off 48 overs and in reply the East Zone made 184 for 9 Central who at one stage were 2 wickets down for 1 and later three down for 30 have a lot to thank Sanjeeva for his brilliant batting

It was an abject commentary on the tournament that the affable Gundappa Vishwanath was the most successful bowler among the five Zones Poetic justice indeed



Profile

Portrait of a rebel

A CORRESPONDENT profiles Sarfraz Nawaz, the stormy petrel of Pakistani cricket, who will be touring Australia with the Pakistani team this winter

THERE are many memories of the ebullient Sarfraz Nawaz, the Pakistani fast bowler who has been the cause of more controversies than Test dismissals. Memories of Sarfraz the destroyer, wrecking Australia even as they were poised on the brink of victory. That was Melbourne, March 15, 1979 a date that will never be forgotten by those who watched his performance.

When Pakistan took the new ball at the start of the final day, local supporters considered the completion of the Test nothing more than a mere formality. Most preferred to stay at home and watch the finish on television. A few made it to the ground, looking forward to watching the tourists eat an humble pie. The Pakistani team must have hoped for a miracle, but as Javed Miandad was to admit later in India, he was praying for something spectacular.

Young Miandad's prayers were answered. Sarfraz cut down his run and bowled seam up against the Aussies, who required only 99 runs to win with seven wickets in hand. The massive fast bowler ripped through their innings, capturing an incredible seven wickets for only one run. Pakistan won by 71 runs and Sarfraz was a fairytale hero, a knight in shining armour.

Sarfraz Nawaz was born in Lahore on December 1, 1948 and though he is now just over 32, he is still not past his peak, according to critics who have monitored his performances over the last few years. His early cricket was played in the city of his birth and he was often to be seen cycling to practice sessions at his club ground, seemingly oblivious of the fierce heat. He was always tall for his age, but there was one constant source of embarrassment. Though he towered above other youngsters of his age and was much more sturdy than most of them, he had a very shrill voice. This was to torment him in years to come, turning him into something of an introvert.

If there was one place where he was always in his element, it was a cricket pitch. On the quick, grassy Lahore wickets, the young Sarfraz soon began to make somewhat of a name for himself, taking wickets with the aplomb of a veteran. He made his debut in first-class cricket in 1967-68, when he was 19 and though he was reasonably successful, there was still no premonition that this boy would one day play Test cricket for his country. However, just one year after his first class debut, he got the break that most cricketers only dreamed of.

The MCC tour of South Africa in 1968-69 had to be cancelled because of the Basil D'Oliviera affair and the Pakistani Board of Control were quick to seize the opportunity and invite the Englishmen over for a home series. There was trouble at home, but the Board believed that a cricket series would help cure the problems. The tour was on, but there would be trouble, plenty of it, before the tour ended. Each of the three Test matches, at Lahore, Dacca and Karachi, was disrupted by hooliganism and a great deal of playing time was lost.

Sarfraz, however, impressed the selectors with his performances at the nets and in one of the games against the English side. More important, perhaps, he had been noticed by one member of the touring English party, Roger Prideaux. The latter was captain of Northamptonshire County at the time and, impressed as he was by the youngster's abilities, he offered him a contract which Sarfraz readily accepted. He flew to England in the summer of 1969 to make his County debut, although he had to qualify for the County side by residence. This, of course, meant that he was not available for the home series against New Zealand in 1969-70. However, he was included in the Pakistan side for the 1971 tour of England under Intikhab Alam.

This was when the unpredictable side of his nature manifested itself. He played the first few games for his country and then decided to cry off on medical grounds. Along with his "illness" there was the question of his not seeing eye to eye with certain other members of the side. Such events would be repeated with alarming frequency during Sarfraz's international career.

Two years later, in 1973, he bowled brilliantly in the third Test against Australia at Sydney in January 1973 and came close to bowling his country to a marvellous victory. Revelling in the conditions prevailing at the Sydney Cricket Ground, he took eight wickets in the match, leaving his country with only 159 runs to win. However, Sarfraz had to look on in frustration as his side's batsmen made a hash of the proceedings, being routed for a meagre 106 in the final innings.

On the tour of New Zealand and in the home series against England, he struggled to find his form. In two Tests against the touring Englishmen, he managed only a solitary wicket, although his batting improved and he developed into a brilliant fielder in the suicidal region of silly point.

Meanwhile, his summers were spent with Northants, although he was not re-engaged for the 1972 season. He made valiant efforts to gain recognition again while playing professional cricket in the Lancashire League. Sure enough, the year 1974 brought him a revival of fortunes and not only did he win back his Northants contract, he was also one of the most successful members of the side that visited England the same summer. In the first Test at Leeds he hammered 53 while batting at number 10 and then took seven wickets as Pakistan had England on the run.

His form stayed with him during the series against the West Indies in the same year and he returned impressive figures of six for 89 on a rain affected Lahore wicket. Again, during the inaugural Prudential World Cup limited overs championship in England in 1975, he bowled with fire, returning figures of four for 44 against the West Indies. It is a measure of his performance that he won the Man of the Match award even though Pakistan lost the match.

Sarfraz was elevated to the position of vice captain of the Pakistan team, deputy to Wasim Bari, since five key players were away playing World Series Cricket for Kerry Packer. However, even this period of his life was filled with tension and dissatisfaction as he complained that Bari never bothered to consult him with regard to major team decisions. Soon after, he was stripped of the mantle of vice captain, which was entrusted instead to dashing all rounder Wasim Raja.

There was more trouble in store. He was involved in the now-famous "handled the ball" dismissal involving Australian opening batsman Andrew Hilditch. One of the fielders had thrown the ball towards the non-striker's end and Hilditch picked up the ball as it rolled in slowly, throwing it back to Sarfraz. The latter appealed and the umpire ruled Hilditch out. The international Press crucified Sarfraz for his action.

That then, was the rebel. Unorthodox throughout his career, scornful of authority, supremely confident of his own abilities. And his middle name is "Trouble".

For your record book

TEST CAREER AVERAGES OF ENGLAND PLAYERS TOURING INDIA 1981/82

	Tests	Ings	N O	Runs	H S		Debut	Av.	C	F	C/St
J W Alott ancashire)	1	2	1	66	52*	v Aus Manchester, Aug 81	v Aus Manchester, Aug 81	66 00	—	1	--
F Boycott orkshire)	104	185	22	7802	246*	v Ind Leeds, June 1967	v Aus Trent Bridge June '64	47 86	21	40	31
I Gower aicestershire)	31	53	4	2042	200*	v Ind Edgbaston, Jly 79	v Pak Edgbaston, June 78	41 67	4	8	15
W R Fletcher ssex) Capt	52	85	11	2975	216	v NZ, Auckland Feb 75	v Aus Leeds Jly 68	40 20	7	16	46
A Gooch ssex)	35	63	3	2000	153	v WI, Kingston Apr 81	v Aus Edgbaston, Jly 75	33 33	3	11	31
T Botham omerset)	41	64	3	1977	149*	v Aus Leeds Jly 81	v Aus Trent Bridge, Jly Aug 77	32 40	8	5	55
J Tavare ent)	4	8	-	244	78	v Aus Manchester Aug 81	v WI Trent Bridge, June 80	30 50	—	2	3
W Gatting iddlesex)	14	26	1	618	59	v Aus Lords July 81	v Pak Karachi Jan 78	24 72	-	6	14
R Dilley ent)	12	20	7	243	56	v Aus Leeds, Jly 81	v Aus Perth, Dec 79	18 69	—	1	3
W Taylor erbyshire)	29	39	3	643	97	v Aus Adelaide Jan Feb 79	v NZ Christchurch Feb Mar 71	17 86	—	2	92/6
E Emburey iddlesex)	18	28	6	322	42	v Aus Adelaide Jan Feb 79	v NZ, Lords Aug 78	14 63	-	--	13
K Lever ssex)	18	27	4	303	53	v Ind Delhi Dec 76	v Ind Delhi Dec 76	13 17	--	1	11
D Underwood ent)	79	108	31	899	45*	v Aus Leeds Jly 68	v WI Trent Bridge, Jly 66	11 67	—	--	43
G D Willis arwickshire)	63	90	40	555	24*	v Aus Adelaide, Jan Feb 79	v Aus Sydney Jan 71	11 10	--	—	24
					24*	v WI Oval Jly 80					
					24	v Ind Manchester, June 74					

J Richards urrey)
Cook orthamtonshire)
— YET TO REPRESENT IN A TEST

BOWLING	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Av	5WI	10 WM	Best Bowling vs
T Botham	9649	400	4284	202	21 20	17	4	8-34 Pak Lords, June 78
J W Allott	138	4	88	4	22 00	--	—	2 17 Aus Manchester Aug 81
G D Willis	12387	375	5709	227	25 14	13	--	8-43 Aus Leeds, July 81
D Underwood	20159	1119	7141	279	25 59	16	6	8-51 Pak Lords Aug 74
K Lever	3677	115	1581	60	26 35	2	1	7-46 Ind Delhi, Dec 76
R Dilley	2136	73	1051	38	27 65	—	—	4-24 Aus Trent Bridge, June 81
E Emburey	4123	207	1386	44	31 50	1	—	5-124 WI Port of Spain, Feb 81
A Gooch	738	37	271	6	45 16	—	—	2-16 Aus Sydney, Jan 80
F Boycott	944	45	382	7	54 57	—	--	3-47 S A, Capetown, Jan 65
W R Fletcher	249	4	173	1	173 00	--	--	1-48 Aus Brisbane, Nov/Dec 70
W Gatting	26	1	14	0	—	-	-	— —

Compiled by C. KESHAVA MURTHY



KEITH FLETCHER, captain (Essex)

Born Worcester 20.5.44. Right-hand middle order batsman. An extremely good player of spin bowling. Hit a superb 97 not out at Chepauk in a motley England total in 1972-73. Has played 52 Tests, scoring 2,975 runs at an average of 40.20. His last appearance for England was the Centenary Test in Melbourne in 1977. He is also an occasional leg break bowler

BOB WILLIS, vice-captain (Warwickshire)

Born Sunderland 30 5 49. Right-arm fast bowler. Mainly swings the ball into the batsmen, but also has the ability to move it the other way off the seam Recently marked a great comeback by taking 8 for 43 in the third Test against Australia, which represents a career-best performance. In 63 Tests has captured 227 wickets at an average of 25 14. Made his first class debut for Surrey, but switched to Warwickshire within three years in 1972, which County he now captains

PAUL ALLOTT (Lancashire)

Born Altrincham (Cheshire) 14 9 56 Six feet four inches tall, bespectacled, this right arm medium fast bowler shot into prominence this season with a substantial haul of wickets—which paved the way for a Test debut at Old Trafford. He took four wickets in the match, and scored an unbeaten 50, which, though he was rested for the final Test, ensured his place in the touring party Can move the ball both ways in the air

IAN BOTHAM (Somerset)

Born Heswell, Cheshire, 24 11 55. Needs no introduction—the all-rounder of the decade In 41 Tests, has scored 1,977 runs at an average of 32 40, and has taken 202 wickets at 21 20 apiece The team clearly, revolves around him One of the hardest hitters in the game.

GEOFF BOYCOTT (Yorkshire)

Born Fitzwilliam 21 10 40 Made his first Test appearance as early as 1964, and has featured in 104 Tests since, notching up 7,802 runs—which is second only to Gary Sobers' record tally—at an average of 47.86 Solidity personified, he is the ideal opener. A bit stronger on the off-side than the on-side

GEOFF COOK (Northamptonshire)

Born Middlesborough 9 10 51. Captain of his County as well as the skipper of Eastern Province in the Currie Cup. A right-handed opener, with a very straight approach to the game Quite strong off the legs. Uncapped but has scored more than 10,000 runs in first class cricket

GRAHAM DILLEY (Kent)

Born Dartford 18.5.59 Right-arm fast bowler, who faded away strangely this summer But, obviously, he has been recognised for his past efforts, which amount to 38 wickets in 12 Tests for an average of 27.65 A man with a slightly jerky action which he has attempted to smoothen out in the last two years. A more than useful left-handed tailender

JOHN EMBUREY (Middlesex)

Born Peckham 20 8 52 An offspinner who uses the crease intelligently and reaps the benefit of his height with a high action Thus far, he has played 18 Tests, taking 44 wickets at 31 50 This is not exceptional, but he does possess a rather deceptive legcutter and is, moreover, a decent lower order batsman.

MIKE GATTING (Middlesex)

Born Kingsbury, 6 6 57 A right-hand middle order batsman, who cuts and hooks quite fearlessly A good fielder both close-in and in the outfield Has scored 618 runs in Test cricket in 14 Tests at an average of 24 72 Under utilised as a medium pacer in Tests

GRAHAM GOOCH (Essex)

Born Leytonstone 23 7 53 Right-hand batsman, strongly built, plays without much of a follow through. Started his career as a middle order batsman, but now opens the innings. Established a very successful partnership with Geoff Boycott till running into a bad patch this summer In 35 Tests has accumulated 2,000 runs at an average of 33.33. A reasonably good change bowler at medium pace



DAVID GOWER (Leicestershire)

Born Tunbridge Wells 1.4 57 A fluent left-handed batsman and a magnificent fielder in the covers. Plays his shots with a minimum of footwork, which has got him into trouble, despite his talents Has compiled 2,040 runs in 31 Tests at an average of 41 67 Can be expected to adopt a more organised defence in India Hit up 200 against India in 1979 at Edgbaston

JOHN LEVER (Essex)

Born Stepney 24 2 49 Left-arm fast medium, and an agile fieldsman Has 60 wickets to his name in 18 Tests at 26.35 apiece Normally at his best when conditions favour movement in the air Bats right-handed

JACK RICHARDS (Surrey)

Born Penzance 10 8 58 Widely regarded as the best young wicketkeeper in England This will be his first overseas tour He made his debut for Surrey in 1976, and won his cap two years later Not quite recognised for his batting

CHRIS TAVARE (Kent)

Born Orpington 27 10 54 A product of Oxford University A right-hand middle order batsman, who, at least, during the latter part of the series with Australia, solved England's long standing "number three" problem. He lacks the strokes of an ideal first down batsman. In four Tests, has scored 244 runs A very good slip fielder

BOB TAYLOR (Derbyshire)

Born Stoke 17 7 41 A great wicketkeeper, very efficient, but not acrobatic His success stems from his tremendous sense of anticipation Equalled Test record for an innings and a match in the Jubilee Test in Bombay with 7 and 10 victims respectively Also scored a half century in partnership with Ian Botham in that match Has to his credit 92 catches and 6 stumpings in Test His runs in 29 appearances amount to 643 at an average of 17 86

DEREK UNDERWOOD (Kent)

Born Bromley 8 6.45 One of the outstanding left-arm spinners of his time, having taken 279 wickets in 79 Test matches at 25 59 apiece Not in the reckoning this summer, but with almost 80 wickets for Kent in the championship, has fought his way back

The team will be managed by Raman Subba Row, with Bernard Thomas acting as physiotherapist and assistant manager

NORTH INDIA SOCCER

Punjab Police, the new force

WATCH out for the Punjab Police football team this year They have emerged the most formidable football side from North India, annexing every tournament they have participated in and also consistently overcoming their more illustrious rivals from Punjab, the redoubtable Border Security Force and JCT Mills, Phagwara During the last month Punjab Police achieved a "hat-trick of triumphs" in the regional football tournaments played in their home State

Exponents of the long ball, first time clearances and hard tackles, Punjab Police have successfully blended their speedy and forthright game with excellent combination and understanding to demolish with ease all opponents (inclusive of Rajasthan Police, NEI Jaipur, BSF and JCT) and become the match-winning outfit of the North

Punjab Police started their winning spree at the inaugural All-India Punjab National Bank Football Tournament held at Jullundur. Sixteen club teams from all over North India, including Delhi, Rajasthan, U P, Haryana, Services and Punjab, participated in this well-attended Jullundur tournament The major shock of the tournament was the defeat of fancied JCT Mills by a two-goal margin, in the semi-final at the hands of a comparatively unknown Haryana Police team. In the other semi-final, Punjab Police, though trailing by an early goal, recovered to assert their superiority over BSF and entered the final, winning the match 2-1. The Punjab Police outclassed their counterparts from Haryana 5-0 in a one-sided final

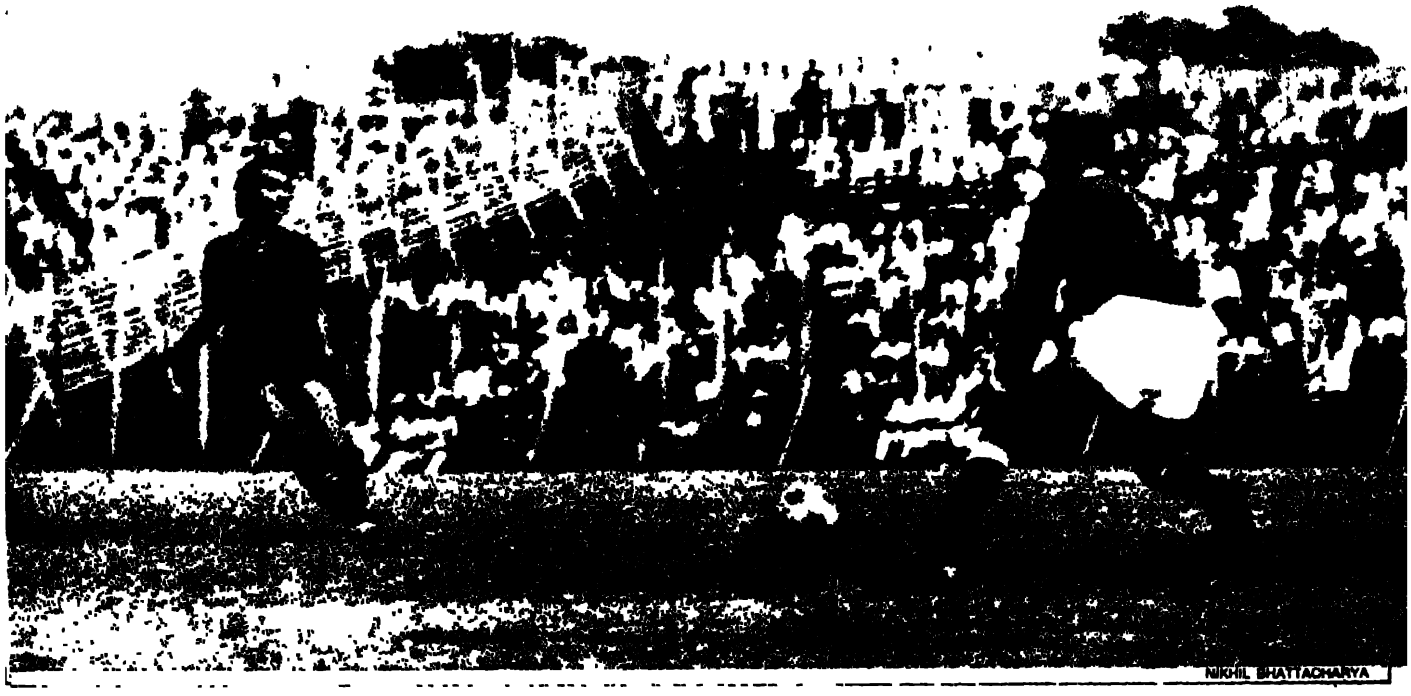
The all-conquering Punjab Police then annexed the coveted 8th Nehru Memorial Football Tournament, at the Government College Grounds, Hoshiarpur Playing fast soccer and dominating proceedings in every encounter, Punjab Police were a cut above all the other 18 participating teams and comfortably beat JCT 2-1 in the final. Next came the Punjab Football Championships at Bhatinda, with nine entries only, a sad commentary on the paucity of club sides in the "land of the five rivers" even though Punjab have thrice been national champions and are current holders of the Santosh Trophy. At Bhatinda, Punjab Police established their supremacy over their immediate rivals BSF and JCT, beating the former 1-0 in the semi-final and trouncing the latter 3-0 in the final

The key to Punjab Police's success is their quicksilver forward line. "Speedy" Balvinder Singh of BSF, who was in the Indian training camp at Barrackpore, has joined the Punjab Police and is the spearhead of their attack They have lanky and fast-raiding wingers in Parminder Singh (from Guru Nanak Dev University, All-India Inter-University champions in 1980) and Jagdev Singh, both of whom can operate with equal skill on either flank Another of their youngsters, Darshan Masih, is operating as a clever schemer, but has also emerged as the top scorer of the team on the Punjab circuit The defence is rugged and ably manned by former Indian captain and Arjuna Award holder Gurdev Singh In Jhalman Singh they have the most capable and agile goalie at present in Punjab and in Ravi Bhushan (an India probable) and indefatigable Phoola Singh the best midfield duo in their State

Compared to Punjab Police, the other Punjab stalwarts, BSF and JCT are in comparative disarray With the success of Narender Gurung, BSF are concentrating on obtaining their football recruits from the north-eastern States of India Consequently, the 1981 BSF team is a new-look side, with many old stalwarts having left

Ancient goalkeeper Madan Mohan Singh has been relegated to the second

The veteran Ravi Kumar about to collect a ball during the IFA Shield pre-quarter final match against Jamshedpur Sports Association JCT failed miserably losing 0-5



Standard Mills win SBBJ Trophy

HOLDING an All-India cricket tournament has its own problems, the biggest of which is to attract teams comprising Test stars or big names. Such tournaments, unless organised in summer, can be conducted only in September when the monsoon is over. But during this period most of our star players remain busy, playing club cricket in England. Unable to bank on them, most of the teams are reluctant to take part in such All-India competitions.

But the positive side of the coin is that devoid of the big guns, these competitions hold opportunities for young, aspiring players to show their worth, as is the case with the All-India State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur Trophy Cricket Tournaments. Bombay's Standard Mills, a subsidiary of the Mafatlal Group of Mills, won the SBBJ Trophy beating holders Sonnet Club of Delhi by four wickets, thanks to a superb all-round performance by Yograj Singh. Bowling at his fastest on the matting wicket, Yograj restricted Sonnet's first innings score to 143 in the two-day final. Satveer Singh, a schoolboy player of some promise was the only one to offer some resistance. Collegian Raju Kulkarni also impressed with his medium pace bowling as he took three wickets to assit Yograj in routing the opponents.

Though Standard Mills suffered early setbacks, Brijesh Patel and Sanju Mutkavi added 63 runs to help their side score 170 in the first innings and thereby take a lead of 22 runs

Sonnet had to concede eight runs as a penalty for a slow over rate. Wickets fell like ninepins against the fierce pace attack of Yograj who bagged six wickets for 50 runs and caused panic in the Sonnet camp. The team gathered only 163 runs in their second knock. Sanjeeva Chopra, Bhupinder Singh and Bhaskar Pilley tried hard to avert defeat. Bhaskar Pilley played a sensible knock of 58.

With only 143 runs needed for victory, Jayesh Pandya (37), Brijesh Patel (21), Sanju Mutkavi (21) and Yograj (41) hit hard to steer their side to the winning target.

PRAKASH BHANDARI

team and the current BSF custodian is a relative newcomer, Anath Dhill. Their balding midfield player, Sukhpal Singh Bisht (troublemaker at the 1981 Federation Cup semi-final at Madras and the 1979 DCM Cup final) has also been downgraded to the second team It is also alleged that this large scale recruitment of players from the north-eastern region has caused some sort of a rift between the local players and the rest Some of their Punjab stalwarts such as Ravinder Singh (stopper-back) and the mid field duo of Shivinderjeet Singh and V K Singh have left BSF and joined the Punjab State Electricity Board, a rapidly improving team with a lot of talented local recruits

BSF are thus in the process of rebuilding and with the absence of Narender Gurung, their talented skipper, on national duty, they may not enjoy much success this year. However, they are trying to give their team an all-India character by recruiting the best players from various regions, a facet which will help them in the long run They are also very strict on their nomenclature and their public relations department insist on the team being called BSF and not BSF Jullundur as of yore

JCT's problem is even more acute They are without a regular goalkeeper With Surjit Singh taking an inter-State transfer to Railway F C, Calcutta and his able deputy the lanky Shiv Kumar joining his father in family business in Canada, JCT are stranded without a proper custodian So desperate is their situation, that they have had to recall the ageing former Leaders Club goalie Ravi Kumar, for their trip to the IFA Shield at Calcutta, the Darjeeling Gold Cup and the Gangtok tournament JCT are also having problems with their forward line

Former Indian skipper Manjit Singh has left the club and there are currently some unsavoury rumours about him The ancient but still brilliant Inder Singh has again been resurrected and is continuing to render yeomen service to his team A promising young forward obtained recently by JCT is 17-year-old N S Thapa from Yamunanagar, Haryana and a member of Indian Schools Football team at the recent Asian Schools Football tournament at Jakarta. Though small in height and build Thapa is a talented ball-player, equally adept as a left winger or left striker With G S Parmar and Parminder Singh away on national duty, JCT's defence is highly vulnerable This, coupled with the problem of no regular goalkeeper has been mainly responsible for their poor showing so far this year As Harjinder Singh's absence will also be felt in the forward line, this season will be an uphill struggle for JCT unless Inder can deliver some of his old magic

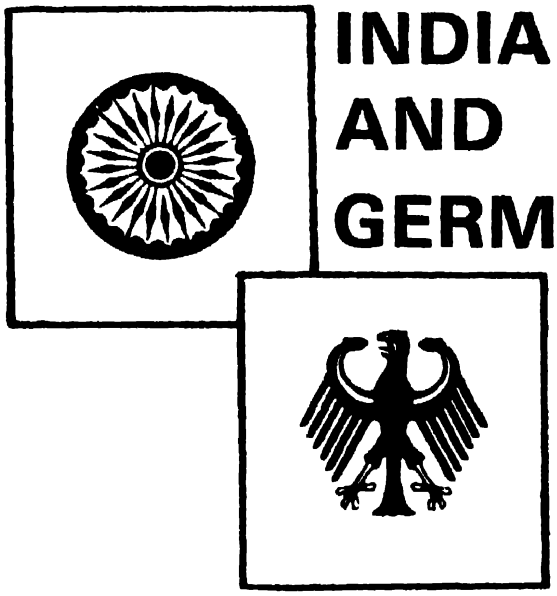
Punjab's team for the future promises to be the Punjab State Electricity Board side which is rapidly becoming the most lucrative recruiting agency for local soccer talent. Their current side is a good blend of youth and experience and they have been semi-finalists in all the tournaments they have played in Besides the BSF stalwarts, PSEB also have several talented youngsters, such as Sheetal Singh (stopper-back) and Kashmira Singh (winger, but not the JCT player of the same name) both of whom represented the Combined Universities football team in the Burma tour of 1979. Also in the squad is linkman Yashpal and left winger Bhupinder Singh, both of whom played for Punjab in the recent Junior National Football Championships With BSF concentrating on outstation talent, PSEB promises to be best bet for the younger generation of Punjab's footballers. By shaping young talent, PSEB may well take over the role performed by Aryans and Kidderpore in Calcutta and so should be a side to reckon with in any major tournament It would not be wrong to say that they will have the stars of tomorrow

With Magan Singh fading away because of his numerous injuries, Rajasthan Police are no more a major force in North India They also have goalkeeping problems as the short and portly Nasir Khan is no more as agile as he once was. As they are finding it difficult to recruit young talent, Rajasthan Police are rapidly becoming a spent force, thriving on the glory of their earlier reputation NEI, Jaipur which rapidly rose to fame by defeating Mohammedan Sporting in the pre-quarter finals of the 1979 DCM Cup have become stagnant as they over-emphasise the high ball and rough tactics

Football standards in North India are not progressing as rapidly as they should, mainly because there is a remarkable paucity of club sides Delhi has numerous club teams, but internal dissension in the local soccer association for the last decade, has rendered the standard static Allahabad and Dehra Dun also have quite a few institutional and club teams but they do not get sustained competitive practice The situation in other States is pathetic A champion State like Punjab has just about four regular club sides Consequently, the numerous talented players that emerge yearly in Punjab at the University level just wither away as there are no sides for them to join after their college life, unless they are fortunate enough to be picked up by one of the established teams

This dearth of clubs leads inevitably to stagnation as there is no regular stream of youngsters emerging from junior outfits as is the case in Calcutta In this context, PSEB's role in Punjab football now, is most praiseworthy Many more such efforts are required by similar institutions in the public or private sector to create a mass base for football in North India

NOVY KAPADIA



INDIA AND GERMANY

A friendship based on close co-operation

The friendship between India and Germany has not grown in a day. Nor it is a link of convenience.

It has grown on sound values rooted in the tradition of the two great nations and the two great cultures. The values Tagore and Gandhi Goethe and Max Mueller stood for. The friendship that has developed over the last few decades in search of a common pursuit and objective.

The objective of bringing distant worlds nearer to each other through peace, humanity and social justice. Of eradicating hunger, poverty and war All to help to be helped for earning a better future, prosperity and progress.

A mission held in high mutual esteem.

Today, the Federal Republic of Germany extends financial and technological assistance to India in many a vital sphere of her developing economy and activities — industry, trade, agriculture and education. And feels reciprocated in no uncertain ways. The foremost being the goodwill and friendship of over six hundred million people called India

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY —a dependable partner

Goan soccer in the doldrums

LESLIE St. ANNE describes the condition of the game in the State

FOOTBALL is the number one sport in Goa This small State has been greatly successful at the national level also But ironically, the body supposed to foster the sport's popularity here—The Goa Football Association—can claim little share in the success that has come the State's way

The GFA's awkward schedules, thoughtless organisation, coupled with indolent and indifferent management, has caused much disruption in the senior and other division league schedules, resulting in unplayed finals of ranking tournaments, walk-overs and general indiscipline among the players and teams

Take for instance, Goa's prestigious "Bandodkar Cup"—a tournament that once attracted top outstation teams. But, unfortunately, the trophy, once worth its weight in gold has in recent times lost its glitter The GFA drew widespread criticism for its inability to get reputed teams to take part in this competition In defence the Association contended—to quote a report by the outgoing secretary—"Very few people realise the staggering amounts demanded for participation by such teams—amounts, which go into lakh of rupees Assuming that spectators would turn up in tens of thousands to see such teams in action, we face an even bigger problem—none of the stadia in Goa can accommodate more than 10,000 spectators"

This argument undoubtedly, has some reasons in it The territory lacks stadia of such capacity as those in Bengal or other States Here, one cannot but side with the GFA in criticising the State Government According to the Association, the Government, while vociferous about plans to develop better, spacious stadia, has been equally tardy in carrying them out However, now that the GFA has as its executive president a member of the Legislative Assembly, one expects that the body's problems will merit better hearing at Government level

Nonetheless, the GFA is not without its faults Paucity of funds may be a practical reason for an unimpressive Bandodkar Gold Cup tournament But can one forgive the Association's miserable lack of foresight? Staging the Bandodkar Cup, concurrently with other State-wide ranking fixtures, only results in last minute drop-outs Reputed teams definitely fall prey to better offer Had the GFA given more thought to this aspect of things while planning their own schedules, one could perhaps have expected at least some outside participation in the Bandodkar Gold Cup which, the GFA paradoxically described as it's "lifeblood"

Further evidence of the GFA bungling The Taca Goa Cup—another tournament that once drew the top-bracket teams—proved to be a virtual flop last season At the semi-final double leg phase, Dempo Sports Club, pressed the organisers for postponement of the matches as their players were injured in earlier encounters The Association in view of the imminent monsoon (due to bad timing of the tournament) rejected the plea and, instead, ruled opponents Sesa Goa as finalists

The other pool semi-final matches between Vasco Sports Club and Salgaoncar Sports Club posed other kinds of problems In the first leg held at Tilak Grounds, Salgaoncar SC (Bandodkar Cup champions) led by two goals Salgaoncar's third goal, however, drew protests from rivals Vasco, who, insisted that the former's striker was offside, according to the linesmen, even though the referee had blown for a goal The dispute over the goal irked the crowds, who, in turn, invaded the field forcing the game to be abandoned Salgaoncar failed to turn up for the second leg match at Panjim Helpless, the organisers held an extraordinary meeting at which it was decided that Vasco Sports Club should clash with Sesa Goa Sports Club in the finals

At this juncture the rain Gods intervened The finals at MPT grounds (other fields were water-logged) proved a wash-out Vasco SC and Sesa Goa SC were declared joint winners after rain stopped play at half-time

The 1980 81 season too has not been particularly successful for the GFA Until the conclusion of the first leg of the senior division league as well as preparation and actual participation of the senior State team in the Nationals all went well Thereafter, came an abrupt halt to the league and other activities from the end of January to March—three months of soccer time

The Association justifies the disruption of the league as the price for triumph of the State junior team in the Nationals All other schedules were shunted into abeyance, as it stated, "Because of training and participation of the junior team in the Nationals.

Granted the GFA did achieve its first National championship But does it necessitate 10 months and entire attention of the GFA? Postponing the league after the first leg could have denied Vasco SC the top honours, as at this stage, the club fielding four Sri Lankan players topped the points table The abrupt suspension of the league saw their stars from Sri Lanka return home, leaving Vasco SC a poor fourth at the end of the postponed second session

The just concluded season had its sad moments also The passing away of three football veterans all of whom were signatories of the Memorandum of Association of the GFA—Mr T K Unny, a former Technical Committee President of the Association, who promoted Vasco Club team, Mr Dattaram Dhond, ex executive committee member and Mr Laxmikant Bandodkar, promoter of the now defunct Panvel Club



LUIS GODINHO

A tense moment in the 1979-80 Bandodkar Cup final between Sesa Goa and Mahindras

At the time of writing, the GFA had already formed its new team of officials for the season 1981-82 On the executive committee are Mr Michael Fernandes, President, Mr Anil Naik and Mr Fancisco Cabral, Vice Presidents, Mr. Albert Colaco, Executive Secretary, Mr Suresh Kurchadker, Jt Secretary, Mr Antonio Botelho, Treasurer and Messrs Domingoes Barreto, G Cardoso, L Veljhee and David Trindade, Members

The General Assembly comprises Mr Manuel Rebello (Dempo SC), President; Mr Evminta Couthino, Vice President, Mr James Fernandes, Secretary and Mr Andrew Rodrigues (Baina Sports Club), Joint-Secretary The Technical Committee consists of Mr S V Salgaocar (Salgaoncar Sports Club), President, Mr Vishwas Vaingaulkar, Vice-President, Mr Francisco Pereira, Secretary and Mr Wilson Paes and Mr A Abranchus Members

The new committee is a blend of experience and youth One hopes (for soccer's sake) they will shake loose the "bumbling bogey" of their predecessors

WORLD WELTERWEIGHT BOXING

Sugar Ray Leonard comes from behind

The pundits refused to speculate on who would emerge victorious in the fight for the world welterweight title between Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns, so evenly matched were the two fighters. True to form, the fight followed no predictable pattern at all, in fact falling below expectations of greatness, but the fans went home happy

FOR Sugar Ray Leonard, the bout at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, assumed importance because it was whispered in some boxing circles in the United States that he was in awe of his opponent, Thomas Hearns. For the latter, the fight was equally important because it gave him a chance to strip Leonard of the welterweight crown.

Leonard was—and still is—a boxer with a reputation to protect. On November 25 last year, he had made Panamanian boxer Roberto Duran look like a novice and the latter had quit the fight in the eighth round. Later, after the excitement began to percolate, an elated Leonard said, "I beat the man with the hands of stone. I beat Roberto Duran. I beat a legend. How come no one can accept that I beat him? There are no excuses. If someone hits you in your body like I hit Duran in his body, you would have cramps too."

Leonard, then, was the victor. But life had not always been easy for him. He had lost the previous encounter against Duran at Montreal, a fight for which he took home no less than ten million dollars. But his price started to come down after his loss at Montreal.

Leonard, then, had a reputation to protect and a future to plan. The fight against the diamond-tough Hearns was a crucial one from any point of view. And Leonard emerged from the contest as a fighter completely detached from the normal judgments of the trade. His fourteenth round victory against Hearns was as much a stunning piece of innovation as it was a brilliant display of tactics.

But Leonard did not have it all his way. Hearns boxed with his brains and must have had the defending champion worried on more than just one occasion. All three judges had Hearns in the lead when Leonard began to use that left of his to truly devastating effect. He punched his opponent remorselessly, attacking his body with a flurry of punches and establishing his mastery from that point onwards.

Till that point of time, judge Wayne Ford had Hearns in front by two points, Chuck Minker by four and Lou Tabat by three. Leonard knew that he had to break out of the rut and he did so magnificently, throwing all caution to the winds as he used his fists gaily, catching Hearns unawares and often off balance.

Even as Hearns tried to unravel the mystery of Leonard's sudden aggressiveness, he began to slip behind on points. Leonard pounded him with no less than 27 consecutive punches as Hearns rested listlessly against the ropes, battered and exhausted and puzzled at this new Leonard who had come suddenly into the fight with bared teeth.

The carnage went on till the fourteenth round and referee Dave Pearl stopped the fight after one minute and 45 seconds of the round in question although there was some dark muttering that it should have gone the distance, considering that the fight held such importance for both men and also that it had grossed over 50 million dollars. Pearl, for his part, was adamant. "My job is to protect fighters' health. I don't give a damn about who was leading or how much money was on the fight. All I knew was that the guy (Hearns) was in trouble."

At one stage, there had been nothing but concern for Leonard among his camp followers and cornermen. It was clear at the outset that he was encountering problems in trying to find the answers to Hearns' reach and style. This pattern persisted until the sixth round but by then it seemed that Leonard was beginning to unravel the answers and work his own way around the problems that confronted him. Hearns, for his part, kept his distance and seemed happy to accumulate points and his fighting style that might served to confuse all and sundry. But it was only when Leonard shed his early uncertainty and tentative approach that the tide finally began to turn.



World welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard raises his hands high in victory

Leonard moved into a higher gear in the sixth and seventh rounds, concentrating on his opponent's body and apparently generating a decisive momentum. By the ninth, however, the momentum was clearly wavering and it seemed as though he had panched himself out of the fight in his very desperation to stay in front.

As he said later, "I guessed I might be behind and I was worried about my left eye, which was closing fast. I had to drag something up from my gut, my heart and I would like to think that we both proved ourselves champions tonight."

But at no time did the champion generate the kind of enthusiasm that was once provided by his namesake, Sugar Ray Robinson, who watched the fight from a fifty dollar seat.

ASIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Hard work paid dividends

MRS REENA MUKHERJEE, the president of the All-India Women's Hockey Association (AIWHA), who accompanied the Indian team to the Asian Women's Hockey Championship at Kyoto recently, expressed her happiness at the side's brilliant achievement "Our boys may not be the Asian champions in hockey but our girls certainly compensated for that adequately by their showing at Kyoto In fact, this was the first-ever title victory for India's girls in an international tournament on foreign soil. The victory served to boost the morale of the side tremendously," Mrs Mukherjee said.

"A few years ago, they won top spot at the Rene Frank international tournament at Madras but the contest was limited to only a few teams. Preparations for the Kyoto meet were much more rigorous and the excellent result was the outcome of a phased coaching programme launched by the AIWHA in collaboration with the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS)."

The hard work paid rich dividends indeed In addition, the glory was not merely restricted to Kyoto as the team also won the quadrangular tournament at Singapore They then flew to Osaka where they triumphed in the three-nation international and finally the internationals against Hong Kong "I am thrilled with the performance of my girls They adhered to the classic style of Indian hockey, a style which is gradually becoming obsolete The girls excelled in short passing, dribbling and attacking cohesion. Way back in 1974, our team finished fourth at the Cannes World Cup and achieved very little since then. This victory is definitely a shot in the arm for Indian women's hockey"

"I admit the opposition was quite weak by Asian standards. Japan, however, were no ordinary side They displayed extraordinary toughness and stamina, but our girls beat them on sheer skill Japan played at a swifter pace but we were superior when it came to skill We hardly met with any resistance Still I must point out that our penalty corner hits were very appalling Even against a weak team like South Korea we missed as many as twenty penalty corners Missing so many is a crime, especially since coach Balkishan had worked hard with the girls and shaped them well But we have to get rid of this defect soon and improve our striking rate drastically.

"The girls were like a family, of which the head was skipper Eliza Nelson. There was no heartburning, no unsavoury incidents Everything went off very smoothly, just as we had planned On our way to a grand victory, we scored a total of 53 goals throughout the tour, while we conceded just three I am still not satisfied with this performance We have to put in more of an effort to double this figure

"Japan held us to a draw in the round robin However, this match was a mere formality Both teams played safe as we were meeting the following day in the final It is for the final that we reserved our best form, defeating Japan decisively Although the entire side did well I was particularly impressed with the performance of 17-year old Rajbir Kaur of Punjab She started originally as a centre-half but was later asked to spearhead the team's attack She has impressive control, good striking power and anticipation. She alone scored 19 of our goals, including a hat-trick. If we had more girls of her calibre and application, we would be able to mould a formidable side for the future Such a side would serve the country for several years

"We had other problems, too. Firstly, we did not have sufficient foreign exchange. The food at Kyoto was insufficient but we could not supplement the girls diet with fruit and milk simply because we did not have the funds We are planning to go to Russia in November and after that, the Pune international tournament will help the team further If all goes well, we hope to take the Asian women's hockey gold medal next year

"With regard to the set up of women's hockey in Asia, the two rival bodies have now merged under a new constitution This body is headed by Begum Atif of Pakistan as president and Mrs Ernawaz Damania of India as secretary The new body will be called the Asian Ladies Hockey Association and for the time being it will have its headquarters at Pune India proposes to stage the next Asian Championship but we have not as yet decided on the venue Women's hockey in this continent is capable of flourishing, provided India and Pakistan can cooperate"

In the words of the team's right half back Varsha Soni "It was a great day for all of us when we beat Japan This was indeed a great achievement because it was our first success on foreign soil We were, in fact, very confident from the very beginning and our captain Eliza Nelson inspired us continually During the camp under coach Balkishan Singh we tried to master the art of short passing and clearing This style helped us outplay our rivals"

Gangotri Bhandari, the senior fullback, said "The credit for our success should be traced to the camp I am proud that I scored the match-winning goal against Singapore off a penalty corner, but we have to work even harder to master this art We have undoubtedly the best in Asia but Japan are close on our heels"

Interviews with PRAKASH BHANDARI

The victorious Indian women's hockey team



Newsround-up

Test stars in single wicket tourney

VARANASI The Aziz Khan Single Wicket Tournament, organised by the National Cricket club at the Sampurnanand Stadium here saw a bunch of Test cricketers including India skipper Sunil Gavaskar, Sandeep Patil, Syed Kirmani, Roger Binny, Kirti Azad, Narasimha Rao and Chetan Chauhan taking part in it. The other Test stars present were Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, Ashok Mankad and Eknath Solkar. They, however, did not get time to show their worth in single wicket cricket as rain marred the glamorous tournament considerably.

The two-day tournament eventually started on the final day. In all, four matches of three overs were played while the fifth one, between Chetan Chauhan and B. M. Bohra could not be completed due to bad light.

Sunil Gavaskar was beaten by Syed Kirmani in an interesting encounter. Gavaskar batted first and scored 34 runs in the reduced three overs. In the process he was out twice in the last over, caught by Solkar in the first instance and clean bowled in the second. But in the first over he executed some beautiful strokes in the midst of constant applause from the gallery.

In reply, Kirmani scored 39 forceful runs and in the process was out only once, clean bowled off the first ball of the third over while attempting a big hit.

Sandip Patil scored 28 runs against little known Amode Sharma. Patil hit three fours and one six and while bowling restricted Amode to only 23 runs to win the match by five runs.

Kirti Azad scored 31 runs against another little known player Vimal Sharma who came very close to punctuating Kirti's epo but missed the target by only four runs. He scored 28 good runs against Kirti's off cutters.

The match between Roger Binny and Narasimha Rao ended in a very interesting situation. Binny scored an ebullient 31 with two lofty sixes. Narasimha Rao tried his best to get past Binny's score but could score only 32 just three runs short.

The last match between Chetan Chauhan and B. M. Bohra could not be completed. Chauhan had scored 16 runs when conditions became unplayable and the umpires called it a day.

SAMIR SINGH

Autumn Games postponed

PATNA The Autumn Games of the School Games Federation of India, which were to be held in the third week of October at Bokaro Steel City, have been postponed to the third week of December this year, and the venue shifted to Patna.

The last-minute refusal of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, came as a bolt from the blue to the officials of the Education Department who had already intimated the teams with regard to the dates and venue of the Autumn Games.

It is understood that the Deputy Commissioner suddenly got the impression that the Education Department officials were going to put the entire burden on him whereas he saw himself only as a patron providing guidance and leadership.

The sub committees for football, basketball, kabaddi and kho-kho have already been formed and even the funds organised.

Right from the very beginning, when the idea of holding the games at B.S. City was mooted, doubts were expressed by knowledgeable people about the choice of the venue, but no one seemed to pay any heed to them. Now, that it has happened, arrangements are being made to hold the games at Patna in December which would mean the conversion of Autumn Games into winter games.

Meanwhile, the frequent transfers of Directors of Sports, Bihar, have led to instability in the Government's sports policy.

In the last three years, as many as six Directors have come and gone from the office in the Education Department. After the retirement of U.N. Sinha, Vishram Prasad took over charge as Director of Youth Welfare, but in March, 1980, he left to join as Commissioner, North Chotanagpur. After him came Ram Naresh Rai but only to give way to Mr. Navin Kumar after about six months.

Navin Kumar certainly plunged heart and soul into his assignment and with his training as an IAS officer seemed able to put things in order. But in April, 1981, after less than a year, Mr. Kumar was transferred to join as District Magistrate, West Champaran.

Mr. A.K. Biswas, Joint Secretary, Education, came in next as Sports Director. He was soon replaced by N.S. Madhawan, also of the IAS. But hardly had Mr. Madhawan stayed in the office for about 40 days when he left as Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

Now the mantle of Sports Director has again fallen on Mr. Biswas and it is said that he would be only too glad to pass it on to someone else as he is already overburdened with his work as Joint Secretary, Education.

PREM KUMAR

Hyderabad beat Karnataka

HYDERABAD In the Junior State Ramachander Rao Memorial Trophy, Hyderabad achieved a convincing victory over Karnataka at the Osmania University grounds.

Unique achievement

CALCUTTA: Eight Asian Games have been staged since 1951 but rowing has never been included among the disciplines, although this is included on the Asiad list. Why this discipline has never received the necessary backing is difficult to ascertain. India, however, will break the ice with the ninth Asiad at New Delhi: the rowing venue has been fixed at Pune's Khadagvasla Lake.

There was a time when the very staging of the event itself was in doubt, but it was thanks to Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi that rowing survived. Said Mr Subrata Dutta, secretary of the Rowing Federation of India: "Due to the active interest taken by Mrs Gandhi, rowing has at last been included on the Asian Games schedule for the first time."

All international specifications laid down by FISA—the world body—will have to be fulfilled, including the law regarding the presence of five international umpires. When rowing was included on the Asiad chart on July 24 this year, the Asian Games Special Committee sanctioned air fares for a five-member team comprising Subrata Dutta, K.P. Singh Deo, Gopal Madhavan, Dr. A.H. Gadre (umpires) and Mr G.C. Ghosh, the RFI president, to visit the Munich World Championships.

The FISA president, Mr Thomas Keller was highly impressed with the Indian representatives' knowledge of rowing. The four Indians aspiring to figure as international umpires at the Delhi Asiad sat for the written and practical examinations along with 23 others. Only nine of the examinees received international licences, but all four Indians were successful—a great achievement indeed. As Mr Keller himself pointed out, it had never occurred before that every single aspirant from a single country had passed the examination.

The five reasons for the Indian delegates' trip to Munich were: (1) Upgrading of umpires to international standard (2) To get FISA approval for staging the rowing event in the Asiad (3) To clarify certain rules and regulations in the context of the local situation (4) Laying the course and finalising technical installations. (In this case it was opined by experts that it was not going to be easy in a deep lake like the one at Khadagvasla (5) Inspect the various types of boats available, to negotiate prices and to arrange for coaches.

A CORRESPONDENT

Though Hyderabad lost their first wicket, that of Amresh Roy with only six runs on the board, their innings was built up slowly and steadily by the other opener Hari Prasad, who scored a brilliant 64. Karnataka spinner Prakash Rathod gave some trouble to the Hyderabad batsmen and captured four wickets.

On the second day, Karnataka started miserably losing one wicket in each of medium pacer Sreedhar's opening overs Along with off-spinner Ananth Vatsalaya, he did all the damage capturing five wickets while the former got three wickets to his credit

Hyderabad skipper Kiran Kumar Reddy's gamble for an outright victory by declaring early did not pay off on the final day. He closed the innings at 179 for five in which his individual contribution was a scintillating 88

Another batsman to show great promise was Vivek Jaisima, son of the former Indian Test star M L. Jaisima

With 310 runs to score in only three hours, the Karnataka boys could manage only 97 runs at the cost of three wickets. Openers Nandan and Mani Turakhia put up 152 runs for the first wicket The former scored a century of 109 while the latter made 68

Meanwhile, the long cherished dream of the Hyderabad Cricket Association to have its own stadium seems likely to emerge into reality soon. The Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to allot the Secunderabad Gymkhana ground to the association for constructing a stadium to be named after the late G Rajaram, the former Minister for Finance and Sports who died in a car accident.

M S SHANKAR

Records galore in veterans' meet

SECUNDERABAD: What a memorable milestone! Former Olympian, Gulab Singh, and Capt Joginder Singh achieved a rare feat in the two-day second National Veterans' meet held here at Railway Recreation Club ground, establishing seven meet records.

It was a superb achievement indeed An enthusiast shouted "hurrah, hurrah" at Gulab Singh's achievement "I cannot even think of clearing 100' meters", admitted the zealous youth Gulab Singh really created a sensation clearing 1 30 metres in high jump.

The 75-year-old Gulab Singh, a world record-holder, won five events, two on the opening day (high and long jump) and three (pole vault, triple jump and discus throw) on the concluding day (September 20)

Not only he, but Joginder Singh of Hyderabad also stunned everybody in shot putt with a heave of 15 14 metres Joginder's National mark was 14.90 metres He also won a silver medal at the third World Veterans' meet at New Zealand.

Born in Punjab, which has a reputation for producing robust men, Gulab Singh, Joginder Singh and Milkha Singh are gifted with natural talents Yet they greatly concentrate on their work-outs

Apart from Gulab Singh and Joginder Singh, the others who impressed the crowd were Kenneth Powel, the former sprint king who set a meet record in 100 metres clocking 12 seconds, Swaran Singh (60) of Punjab, who timed 31 4 seconds in the 200 metres and S. Biodya of Bihar (45) who created a meet record by covering a distance of five kilometres in 29 25 seconds

In the five kilometre walk in the age-group of 55 years, Lingappa of Karnataka, Bakshi Singh of Punjab and S. Gonsalves of Delhi created new meet records While Lingappa created the record in 34 min. 25 sec., Bakshi Singh made it in 34 min 53 sec and Gonsalves in 37 min 28 seconds

The women athletes too performed creditably In the 50 years age-group Daisy Victory of TamilNadu won in the 200 metres and in the discus throw. Daisy, who holds the record of 31 8 seconds in the 200 metres in the under—44--49 age-group, covered the distance in 31 5 seconds Savithri, also of Tamil Nadu, was another woman to win two events—high jump and 200 metres Andhra's Nirmal A Prabhu Das also won a double standing—first in the five kilometre walk and then in the discus throw In all, 19 records were established by men and women at the competition

M S SHANKAR



The Golden Girl Ute Geweniger of East Germany with her five gold medals and one silver which she won during the 15th European Swimming Championships, held recently in Yugoslavia

Sportspeople

The genius of Dudley Nourse

THOUGH the death of *Dudley Nourse* after a prolonged struggle against pneumonia in the Middle East was treated as a non-event, followers of world cricket will ever hold him in high esteem as one of the finest batsmen ever to come from the Veld

A right-handed batsman with powerful forearms, Nourse hit 2960 runs in Test cricket, unsurpassed by any of his country, save Bruce Mitchell, whose average, however, was eclipsed by him In Currie Cup matches his career average of 65 85 is yet to see a peer

In fact, Dudley and his father Dave Nourse heralded a new era in South African cricket. The senior Nourse's record of 85 Test innings still stands Only J H B Waite has played more Tests than him He played from 1902 to 1924 and finally retired when he was as old as 57 years

It is often assumed that famous parentage breeds precocious progeny by way of genetics and direct encouragement But here is a story with a difference

"Strangely enough," recalled Dudley once "He never in any way—as far as I can remember—encouraged me in my games Never, for instance, did my father even show me how to hold a bat

"When my turn came to bat I was more than usually nervous. My father, fielding at slip, crouched there with his large hands, I knew, eager to pounce on any ball I might edge his way. He would not give me a good second chance if he could help it That's cricket It was also the first time that my father had seen me at the wicket and I wanted to show him I had come a long way and that it was not merely the name of Nourse that had secured for me a place in the team he had graced for so many years

"Since my father had never indulged in a game of any sort with me as a youngster, it was actually the first time that he trundled a ball in my direction Three overs were enough to convince the Western Province captain I was not to be dismissed on psychological lines and my father retired once more to first slip

"When the coveted century did ultimately arrive, the first one to walk across to me was my father, who said, 'Congratulations, son, I hope that there may be many more to follow this one' " There were to be exactly forty more

A G Moyes was of the opinion that Dudley had "A more polished and attractive style and a touch of genius for attack" Dave Nourse considered that it would have been better had his son been a left-hander Critics would have been able to compare the two so much more easily.

Dudley was invited, when 12, after his photograph had appeared in the newspapers, to be coached under Alec Kennedy who, Cardus said, "Bowled right through the summer in his playing days and would have easily produced a clinching alibi if circumstantial conviction ever happened to call him to court" But the youngster fell out of place and never went back there after two sessions.

At the age of 25 Dudley made the first of his three tours to England It was quite successful and the young man hit 736 runs in May alone before the Test matches had begun. In one particular sequence he took three centuries off the bowlers, two in the match against Surrey itself. This brought encomium in good measure and forced Sir Pelham Warner to make



Dudley Nourse

that famous comment in a luncheon at Lord's. "A Nourse, a Nourse, my kingdom for a Nourse"

He totalled 1861 on the visit, second only to the score of Eric Rowan, but unfortunately failed in the Tests Probably his temperament was not ripe for the big occasion and he was dropped for a Test to accommodate another man

He avenged his failures in England with a flourish at home in winter against the Australians. He made 518 runs in the series, crossed by batsmen of neither side

He scored 91 in the Durban Test and Johannesburg looked like being England all over again when he was dismissed for no score in the first innings, South Africa mustering only 157 All hell broke loose in the second with the home side struggling to save the game. Three wickets were down for 90 and the South Africans were still three runs in the red

But Nourse looked at home. His first 50 took him only 90 minutes inclusive of 32 in boundaries alone and the bowlers seemed to be striking bare rock. "Not even Cyril Walters had treated Grimmett and O'Rielly like this in the preceding year in England," declared Fingleton.

Nourse escaped at 65, Fleetwood Smith not getting to a powerful pull convincingly, but next ball he dispelled notions of a sinking side when he struck Grimmett to the fence. The day ended with 'ADN' 98 not out, South Africa 161 ahead and only 4 wickets down People all around were breathing more easily now.

"Nourse surged on, his feet twinkling, his bat scourging Out and back, out and back, his body never still, never retaining its initial position of the stance. Mitchell, like the sensible man he was, withdrew into passive obscurity," Fingleton added.

Next day he was out with 231 made in 298 minutes, an innings embellished with 36 boundaries. At one stage things got so bad that Aussie captain Victor Richardson asked Fleetwood Smith if he had any ideas for Dudley. "Yes, shoot him," replied 'Chuck'. The match was drawn but not before McCabe had hit an unforgettable 189.

In 1938-39 against Hammond's England, Nourse hit two centuries, his 103 in the Timeless Test taking six hours. He made 422 and headed the South African averages with 60 28

But it was 1947 that proved to be the great player's *annus mirabilis*. He thrashed 621 in a five-Test series and easily led his country's averages His unbeaten 205 against Warwickshire was his highest on the visit.

He made 149 in the first Test at Trent Bridge, his side running up 533. England was shot out for 208 and though the follow-on was implemented they managed to save the match Nourse's innings contained 15 fours and a six and by the end of the first day South Africa was 376 for 3 wickets A team is said to have murdered the bowling if it has made anywhere between 250 and 300 in a day's proceedings today.

But the Manchester Test brought the best out of him as he himself later admitted On a spitefully wet wicket on which even Compton looked deadly and intolerable, Nourse breezed to an exceptional 115 in the second innings. Viljoen and he put on 121 in 95 minutes when the pitch was at its worst, but the following batsmen relinquished the advantage. Seven batsmen fell for 50 runs and the purpose of Nourse's innings made in 145 minutes with the assistance of thirteen fours and two sixes out of 184 runs seemed lost.

"That was Nourse at his best," commented *Wisden* "This stocky batsman with broad shoulders and blacksmith forearms seldom goes right forward except when moving out to drive the slow bowlers; off his back foot he hits exceedingly hard, particularly when hooking, driving to the off or cutting square. In executing these he strikes as if with a bludgeon." Not without

reason was he named one of *Wisden*'s Five Cricketers of the Year

On his third visit to England in 1951, Nourse finished second in his side's Test averages He played a wonderful innings at Nottingham, 208 in all and with a broken thumb It proved to be the fillip for the side and South Africa ultimately won the Test

Even though captaincy inspired the batsman in him, success came in miniature form after that and his prolificacy was greatly reduced He made only 93 runs more and England beat the Springboks by 3 Tests to one

When he was born, November 12, 1910, his father was busy hitting an unvanquished 201 against South Australia in the opening encounter of the 1910-11 series The Governor-General of Australia, Lord Dudley, on hearing the news conveyed the wish that the son be named after him The Lord must have died a happy man

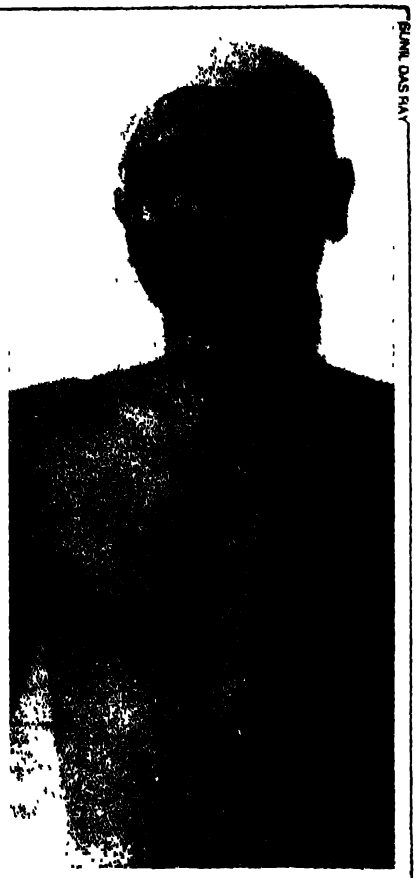
Gurbux hands over charge

It was the day of his 'handing over' charge to his successor The St Joseph's Indian High School got up a function to say 'goodbye' to him And there he became so very emotional that he wept Yes, when the time to say adieu came, much tears—very genuine tears at that, not the glycerine or crocodile variety—were shed for (and by) *Mr Gurbux Singh*, the man who till the other day was the deputy director of the NIS South Centre here

Mr Gurbux Singh could rightly claim that the NIS South Centre was his baby He headed the institution since its inception in 1975 and as he told *Sportsworld* on the eve of his departure for Patiala, he looks back on his six year tenure with "a great sense of achievement" Without fear of contradiction it may be said that the man did a reasonably good job of running the show despite limitations of many kinds

Mr Gurbux Singh was born on April 18, 1925 in the Punjab and he graduated in law from the University of Delhi in 1948 He served at the bar for a year before joining the Police Department as a prosecutor—a job he held for 15 years He represented the State in both hockey and volleyball and was captain for a while He turned out for India in volleyball at the 1958 Asian Games He qualified as a coach in volleyball three years later and joined the NIS in Patiala after two years with the Punjab Sports Department Among his assignments were a stint as assistant coach to a Russian expert and the training of the national volleyball teams during that period He underwent an advanced course in the GDR (German Democratic Republic) and in 1975 took over as deputy director, NIS South Centre

When news came that Mr Singh was to be transferred back to Patiala, many people interpreted it as an offshoot of the incident which occurred in NIS Bangalore involving five athletes undergoing training for the



SUNIL DAS RAY

Khagendranath Dutta of West Bengal Sports Club won the world's longest distance swimming competition (74 k m) held on the Bhagirathi river near Berhampore for the third time in succession covering the distance in six hours 56 minutes and 22 seconds

Asian Games Mr Gurbux Singh laughs off the contention when we put it to him just before he left for Patiala "The incident has had nothing to do with my transfer My transfer was long overdue and the sub-committee incharge was in the process of selecting my successor when the incident occurred There is no link between the two occurrences In any case, how could I have been "penalised", as some people seem to think for an incident which I had no role in"

The 56 year-old coach who has another 20 months to go before retiring, obviously was sad because the NIS South Centre complex, slotted to come up in the Bangalore University campus, did not materialise during his tenure It was one project that he worked on with indefatigable energy and enthusiasm

At the pace at which the project is being undertaken at the moment, it would well be after another two deputy directors come and go before the foundation stone, leave alone anything else, materialises

Says Mr Gurbux Singh "I guess I could say that the institution justified the faith reposed in it We have even tried to go a little beyond our normal functions and one such case is the pedagogic training and competitions we introduced for all our trainee-coaches."

Indeed, the pedagogic training-cum-competitions are about the most unique schemes in this country It involves trainee-coaches of the NIS going out to the neighbouring schools and training school kids before bringing them to the annual competitions

Some 3,000 school children in and around Bangalore benefit by this scheme As many as 31 schools are involved and some of the fringe benefits noticed include the fact that because of these competitions local schools necessarily maintain grounds and playfields well, the respective Pt masters get a reorientation for free, headmasters and general teachers get involved and, of course, parents are motivated The South Centre has thus succeeded to a certain extent in relating itself to its immediate citizenry. The NIS personnel have been actively encouraged to go out and help in organising the technical aspects of many local sports competitions and thus lending a hand to the improvement of the judgement and technical standards Much of the credit for this has to go to the drive and enthusiasm of Mr Gurbux Singh

Taking the baton over from Mr Gurbux Singh is Mr A V S Prasad

Adusumilli Sreerama Vara Prasad, 42 years of age, was selected from an impressive field of candidates such as Joginder Singh Saini, K D Thapar, Dr. P J Sebastin and Mr Govindarajuly (YMCA College of Physical Education) Prasad was a good athlete in his younger days and as he says, he "invariably finished among the top six in the short sprints" In the 1967 inter-State athletics, he won the 200 metres event in 21 4 seconds, and the best he ever recorded in the 100 metres was 10 6 secs He was selected to represent India in the Indo-German meet that year

Mr Prasad has the distinction of representing as many as five States in national level athletic competitions—Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Railways, Madras State, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh He hails from the West Godavari District of A P and he joined the Laxmibai College of Physical Education in 1961 He turned out for Vikram University (LCPE was then affiliated to Vikram University now it is under Jivajee 'Varsity) and Madhya Pradesh State Graduating in B Ped he joined the Integral Coach Factory for a brief while and thus represented Indian Railways and Tamil Nadu

In 1965 he joined Kalyani University as a lecturer in Physical Education During this stint he turned out for Bengal in National athletic meets In 1966 he almost made it to the Indian contingent for the Bangkok Asian Games but his name was "chopped" in the last minute pruning Two years later he was sent to the German Democratic Republic for advanced studies in Physical Education In 1972 he took over as Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council, until his appointment as Deputy Director in the south centre in Bangalore

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

First ball—and got Trumper

A Worcestershire all-rounder bowled himself into cricket history with the first ball he bowled in Tests. It took the wicket of Victor Trumper. The match was the first Test of the 1903-04 season against Sir Pelham Warner's team—the match in Sydney made famous by Reginald Foster's Test debut 287, a score which was to stand as a record for 26 years until broken by Bradman and Victor Trumper's 185 not out in Australia's second innings, probably his greatest innings.

As the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported at the time: "The downfall of the first three batsmen in Australia for 12 runs on a wicket, the only fault of which was that it appeared to be a trifle fiery, was a disastrous commencement for Australia." Two of the three wickets had fallen to the Worcestershire all-rounder playing in his first Test and opening the England attack with celebrated Yorkshireman George Hirst. After an over from Hirst the Worcestershire man bowled into a north-easterly breeze and to quote again from the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "The first ball was a sensational one. Trumper essayed a back cut. The ball rose high and quickly off the pitch, struck the upper edge of the bat and Foster brought off a magnificent left-handed catch about knee high, the fieldsman falling in the effort and sustaining a nick in the side which disabled him for a few minutes."

In his sensational debut, the bowler had removed both openers for six runs. He went on to finish with 4-76 from 32 overs, seven of them maidens, his victims including the Australian captain and top-scorer, Noble. (Australia lost this historic Test by five wickets. 285 and 485 to England's 577 and 5-194.)

The bowler who claimed Trumper's wicket with his first ball in Tests played in 10 Tests, eight of them against Australia. In the 1903-04 series in Australia he twice removed the formidable openers Trumper and Duff for under 20. In "*A History of Cricket*", H S. Altham says of the Worcestershire player: "A batsman who could defend and attack, he made more than 15,000 runs and 18 centuries but it was his bowling that won him a place in Warner's first victorious side to Australia. Tall and wiry with a high action, he could move the new ball very late from the leg and when the wicket gave him any help bring it back sharply from the off, 1,000 wickets formed the others halt to the picture of a great all-rounder."

QUESTION 1 Who got Trumper with his first ball in Tests?

Trumper was out to the first ball of the second over of a Test match but in England-Australia Tests two other celebrated batsmen – one from each country—suffered even more abrupt dismissals. They were out to the first ball of the match. The first was England's renowned Archie MacLaren, out to the first ball of the second Test of the 1894-95 series, played in Melbourne and won by England by 94 runs. The successful bowler was a left-hander making his sole appearance in a Test. The *Argus* cricket correspondent, who wrote under the pen-name of "Observer", reported that he had never seen a closer cluster of men than gather around MacLaren's bat on the off and that the first ball from the bowler was "strangely enough the best he bowled during the day". "Observer" continued: "MacLaren tried to cover it as it rose but turned it with the shoulder of the bat straight into Trott's hands at point. A jubilant shout told of the first man out. One wicket, no runs."

QUESTION 2 Who got MacLaren with the first ball of a Test?

Thirty-one years later an Australian shared MacLaren's fate—out first ball. The match was the drawn third Test of the 1926 series, at Headingley, the batsman Australia's redoubtable left-hand opener Warren Bardsley.

The bowler who had him caught, low at first slip by Herbert Sutcliffe, had also claimed a wicket with the first ball he ever bowled in a Test match, two years earlier. On that occasion he bowled the second over of a Test against South Africa. His first ball was a late in-swinger. The Springbok batsman, M J. Susskind, came down quickly on it but not quickly enough, it hit his bat before his timing expected it and flew off to Roy Kilner—a catch at short leg.

QUESTION 3 Who was the bowler?

Reverting to the series in which the Worcestershire bowler got Trumper's wicket with his first ball in Tests—between the third and fourth Tests the 1903-04 touring Englishmen accounted decisively for Victoria and New South Wales. In the match against Victoria the Melbourne wicket was at its worst; four men were out for 0 and, had Harry Trott been caught first ball, Wilfred Rhodes would have performed the hat-trick and the total could scarcely have got out of single figures. As it was, Rhodes took 5/4 and the Worcestershire bowler 4/8 as Victoria in their second innings plunged to the lowest score ever made in a big match in Australia.

QUESTION 4 How many?

With the first ball he ever bowled in Australia an English fast bowler took the wicket of an opening batsman in the first match of his team's tour, against Western Australia. The batsman, caught at slip by Tom Graveney, was John Rutherford.

QUESTION 5 Who was the bowler?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Gilbert Jessop, of Gloucestershire. The match in which he so dramatically came to England's rescue was the fifth Test of the 1902 series—the Test which will be known forever as Jessop's Match. The fastest century of his career, 101 out of 118 in 40 minutes, was scored against Yorkshire. It included seven sixes, hit clean out of the ground, off the legendary Wilfred Rhodes. Only faster hundreds are Percy Fender's 35 minutes in 1920 and Chris Old's 37 minutes (for Yorkshire against Warwickshire) in 1977. Jessop shares with Clive Lloyd the record for fastest double century. In making 286 for Gloucestershire against Sussex in 1903, he posted his 200 in 120 minutes, as did Lloyd in making 201 not out for the West Indies against Glamorgan 73 years later. Jessop also occupies third place on the list of fastest double centuries—130 minutes for the first 200 of 234 against Somerset in 1905—one minute better than Victor Trumper took over the first 200 of his 293 against Canterbury at Christchurch, 1913-14.

2 J H. (Jim) Sinclair, whose century in 80 minutes was made at Cape Town against the powerful Australian team of 1902. The off spinner who got him for a duck in the first innings and whose first ball in the second innings was hit out of the ground was Bill Howell.

3 G A. (Aubrey) Faulkner. His remarkable double against England at Johannesburg was achieved in 1909-10. His triumphant tour of Australia was made the following year.

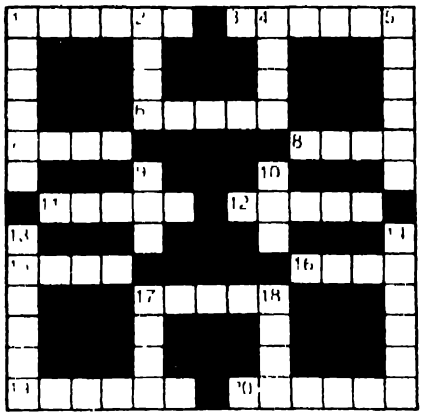
4 Victor Trumper. The South African captain-wicketkeeper who described Trumper's knock as flawless was P W. Sherwell.

5 Don Bradman, in the third Test of the 1932-33 series against South Africa, in Melbourne. He made 167, the 98 minutes he took for his century being his fastest time to reach three figures in a Test.

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

116



ACROSS

1 Two-fold bridge term (6)
3 Fraternally Akbar's (1,5)
6 T. T. player goes for a drink before the game (5)
7 Lose Bangladesh currency during karate (4)
8 Group of wolves in cards (4)
11 Alexander and Gene (5)
12 Winner of Indian Open Golf sounds like suffering at the neck (5)
15 Unreturnable serves on card table (4)
16 Not an odd tennis couple (4)
17 Roger Bunny's nickname (5)
19 Conduct music while running relays (6)
20 Played on the fronton trinquet and place libre

DOWN

1 Fill your pen when taking a break in cricket (6)
2 Leave the bat and walk upstairs (4)
4 Mandlikova was christened thus (4)
5 Shatter windows in the billiards room over and over again (6)
9 A wager at the race course (3)
10 Eagar photographer (3)
13 Hosts of the forthcoming World Cup hockey ascend (6)
14 Tobogganing at St. Moritz (6)
17 Father of gymnastics (4)
18 Goalkeeper at your rescue (4)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

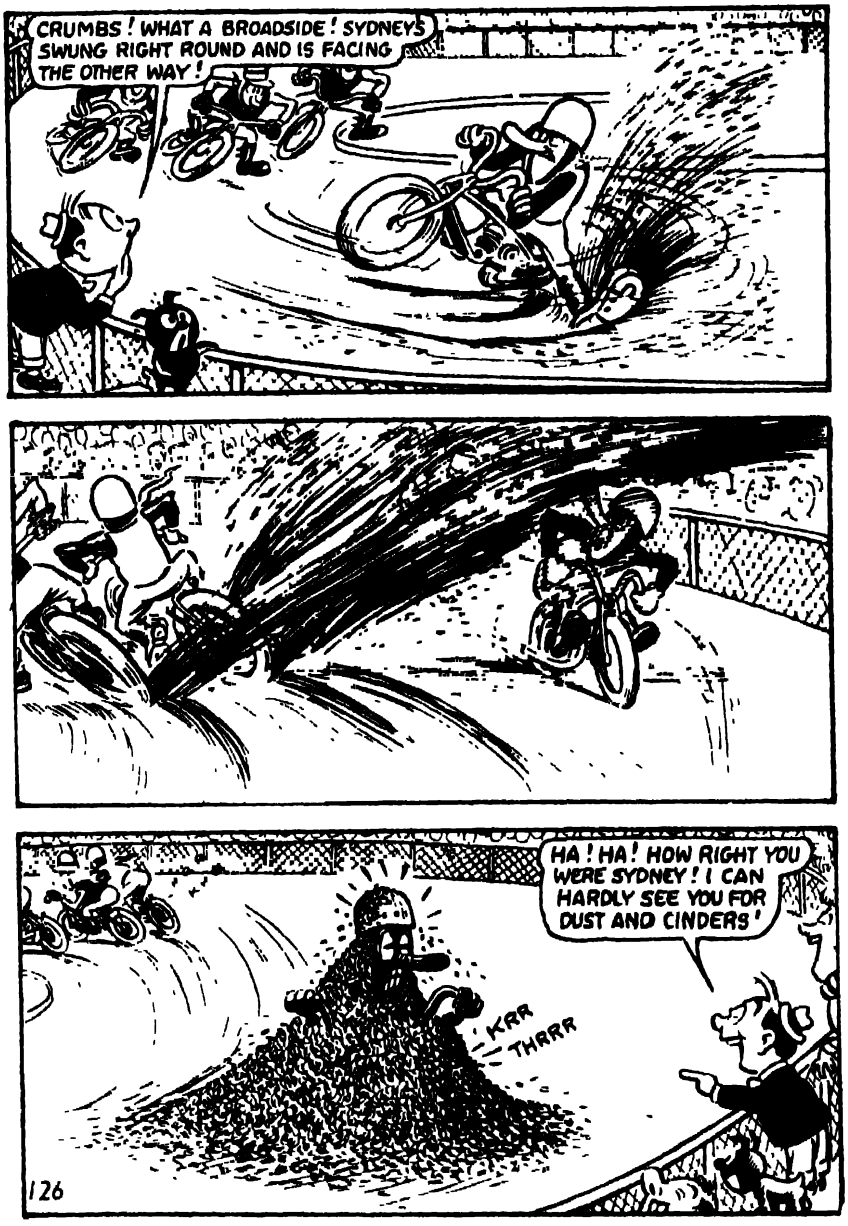
Harjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

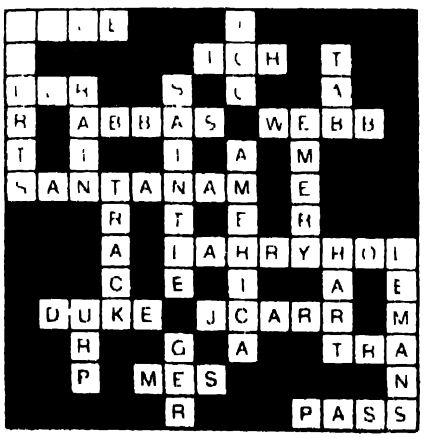
Identify the following gold medallists

1 Kitei Son
2 Juan Carlos Zabala
3 Anton Geesink
4 Wilhelm Ruska
5 Armin Hary
6 Otis Davis
7 Lynn Davies
8 Mildred Didrikson
9 Takashi Ono
10 Henri Eriksson

Sporty



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 115



ANSWERS

1 Marathon race champion from Japan 1936
2 Marathon race champion from Argentina, 1932
3 Winner in judo (Open category) from Holland, 1964
4 Winner in judo (heavyweight category) from Holland, 1972
5 100 metres sprint winner (1960) from Germany
6 400 metres run champion from the USA, 1960
7 Long jump champion from Great Britain, 1964
8 Gold medal winner (USA) in women's javelin throw and 80 metres hurdles, 1932
9 Gymnastics gold medallist from Japan Men's horizontal bar 1956 and 1960 and in Horse vault (joint) 1960
10 1,500 metres run champion (1948) from Sweden

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Prithiraj Nandy, Ranchi.
Q. How many sixes and fours did Kapil Dev hit in his knock of 126 n o against West Indies in Delhi in 1979-80?
A. No sixes and 18 fours
Q When did Pronob Roy make his debut in Ranji Trophy for Bengal? What was his score in the match?
A Pronob Roy made a hundred on his debut—105 for Bengal vs Assam at Dibrugarh in 1978-79

R K Chatterjee, Hooghly
Q Who was the first professional cricketer to be appointed captain of England and when?
A. Len Hutton who was the first professional cricketer to be honoured with captaincy of England—in the 4-Test series against India in England in 1952

S.K.Ramgurhia, Calcutta.
Q. How many boundaries and sixes were hit by Bradman in his 334 at Leeds in 1930?
A No sixes and 46 fours
Ashok Bajpai, Darbhanga
Q What was Richard Hadlee's bowling analysis in both innings of the Wellington Test against England in 1977-78 ?
A. 28-5-74-4 and 13 3-4-26-6

Ramesh Kumar Jain, Yeshvantpur.
Q Is the batsman allowed to change his batting position from left-hand to right-hand or vice-versa, in the same innings?
A Yes, but he must inform the umpire of his intention to do so, beforehand.

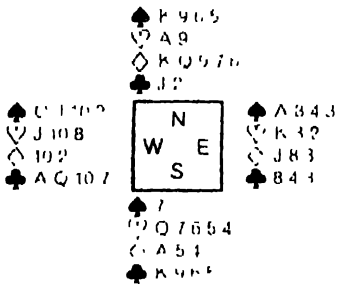
Ashok Kumar Singh, Dibrugarh.
Q Where, when and against whom Bapu Nadkarni made his debut in Tests? What is his career record?
A. Bapu Nadkarni played his first Test against New Zealand at Delhi in 1955-56 and in 41 Tests since then, he scored 1,414 runs @ 25 70 and captured 88 wickets @ 29 07

R K Dhanuka, Howrah.
Q Has Jeff Thomson captured Chetan Chauhan's wicket in any of the Tests in 1977-78 in Australia?
A Yes, once in the second innings of the second Test at Perth when A D Ogilvie caught him off Thomson's bowling

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Bridge kibitzers in the Midlands are having a good year, with the Common Market Championships in April-May and now the full European Championships re-scheduled from Poland. I said something about our Open team last week, but I am pleased to say that the selection of the Ladies' team was less controversial. The team includes 'Season-ticket-holder' Nicola Gardener, arguably Europe's finest woman player. This week's hand shows to the full Nicola's tactical awareness at the table - and she was only defending a part-score in a match scored on aggregate!



The bidding was simple:

SOUTH	NORTH
	1 ♤
1 ♡	1 ♠
1 NT	pass

and, as West, Nicola led the Queen of spades. Normally declarer does better to play low from dummy for a round or two in these situations, but he had six tricks in sight and it was not impossible that West had led away from ♠ A. So up went dummy's King to lose to the Ace. The three of spades came back and West won with the Jack, the card that she was known to hold after the lead of the Queen. Next came the lead of the two of spades, through dummy's ♠ 9 6. Well, you have guessed, otherwise there would have been no story. Declarer misguessed and put in the six to lose to Ead's eight. There was barely no trick to catch the last spade and East took the opportunity to push through a club to West's Queen. There was still no panic and West quietly pushed through the Jack of hearts to establish the seventh trick for the defenders before declarer could come to the extra trick that he had needed from the start.

Last week's quiz. A reader asked if it was silly to play the double of a pre-emptive bid for take-out and so give up the possibility of lucrative penalties. I don't find it silly at all. The double has always struck me as far and away the most flexible weapon against three bids. Partner doesn't have to bid if he has potential trump tricks, and your side's bidding will start (if you plan to do any constructive bidding) as low as possible. If you have a very strong hand with values in their suit as well, you can bid no trumps and, with simply trump tricks and little else, you have a comfortable pass - partner is still there!

This week's quiz. The other side of the medal. At love all you hear, three clubs on your left, followed by two passes. Do you take any action with ♠ A 10 7 4 ♡ A 9 8 3 ◇ A 7 4 ♣ 4 2?

Chess

Peter Clarke

British chess opened up fresh ground last February when a party, sponsored by British Caledonian Airways and B T Batsford Ltd made a short tour of China, competing in a combined tournament and match event with Chinese players. Not many years ago the latter were almost entirely unknown outside their own country, but all that has swiftly changed — so much so that they managed to beat our side, which contained grandmasters Speelman and Keene, in the series of matches. However, the overall individual tournament ended in a clear victory for Robert Bellin with 8½/11, undefeated and 1½ pts. ahead of the field. He describes the following game as his most satisfying win of the tournament in his report of the trip in the April-May issue of *Chess*. This covers not only the play but also gives a full account of the social and sightseeing aspects of the tour, leaving the reader in no doubt about its great success.

White **Chen,** Black **Bellin.** Queen's Pawn, Dutch Defence (Shanghai, 1981)

1 P - Q4, P - KB4, 2 Kt - KB3, P - K3
3 P - B3 . . .

The Chinese are well behind us in knowledge of opening theory. Normally White *fianchettoes* his King's Bishop but here he goes for another set up.

3 . . . B - K2, 4 Q - B2, P - Q4
5 B - B4, Kt - KB3; 6 P - K3, 0 - 0
7 Kt - K5, QKt - Q2, 8 Kt - Q2, Kt x Kt
9 B x Kt, B - Q3; 10 Kt - B3, B - Q2
11 B - Q3, Q - K1; 12 P - QR4, P - QR4
13 0 - 0, B - B3; 14 R - R2, K - R1
15 KR - R1 . . .

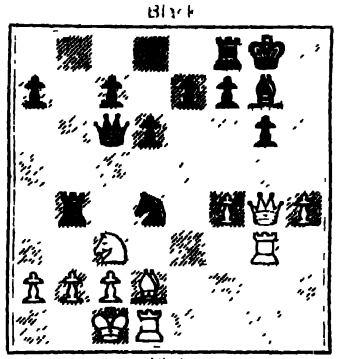
White's plan is to expand on the Q side by P - QKt4. In response Black naturally launches his projected assault on the other wing.

15 . . . Q - R4; 16 P - QKt4, Kt - Kt5
17 B x B, P x B; 18 Q - K2, P - KKt4
19 P - Kt5, B - Q2; 20 P - B4, P x P
21 B x QBP, R - B3; 22 P - R3, Kt - R3
23 P - K4, P x P; 24 Q x P, P - Kt5
25 Q x QKtP, QR - KB1; 26 P x P . . .

Bellin thought 26 Q x B was a better chance. Now Black wins by force.

26 . . . Kt x P, 27 Q x B, R - R3
28 K - B1, Q - R8ch, 29 Kt - Kt1, R - R7
30 Q x QP, Q x Pch; 31 K - K1, Q x Ktch
32 B - B1, R(R7) x P; 33 Resigns

Competition G486. Solution next week.



Black to play. How did the game finish? Grade 3 (medium). Prizes of £10 for the first three correct solutions. Send yours, on a postcard to Chess Competition G486, *The Sunday Times*, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT, by July 11.

Solution to G485 (Byrne - Liberzon, Biel, 1976). (2kr3r/Qp1q1ppp/p2p4/3P4/n4N1n/3R1B2/PPP3PP/2K4R - White to play.)
Byrne concluded the game in violent attacking style: 24 Kt - Kt6!, P x Kt, 25 P x P, Q - QB2, 26 Q - R8ch, Q - Kt1, 27 B x P ch, K - B2, 28 Q x P, Q x B, 29 Q x Kt, and Black resigned (the threat of 30 R - QB3ch etc is too strong).

Problem No 1151. Solution next week.
N. A. Macleod (*Schach Echo*, 1976) **(1Q2K3/r1p1p3/1Bn1N1np/1p5R/1pP1k3/b6B/2Pp4/3N1R1b - 10 white men; 12 black.)**
White to play and mate in two moves.
Solution to No 1150 (Perry). (2N2B2/4p3/R1p5/3k2K1/2p1b1N1/2P2R2/5Q2/8 - mate in two.) 1 R - K3 (zugzwang) (a) 1 . . K - B4, 2 R - R5; (b) 1 . . K - K3, 2 Q - B5, (c) 1 . . P - B4, 2 Kt x P, (d) 1 . . P - K3; 2 Kt - Kt6; (e) 1 . . P - K4, 2 Q - B7; (f) 1 . . B - B4; 2 R - K5

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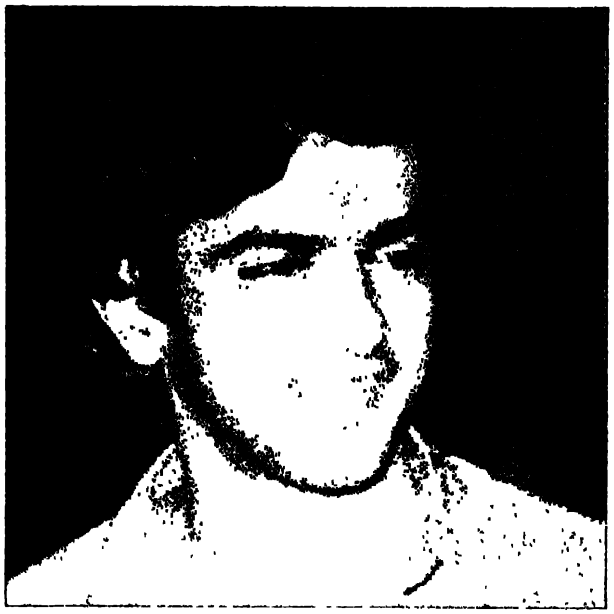

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Sportsworld

PRAKASH PADUKONE: My life in Denmark

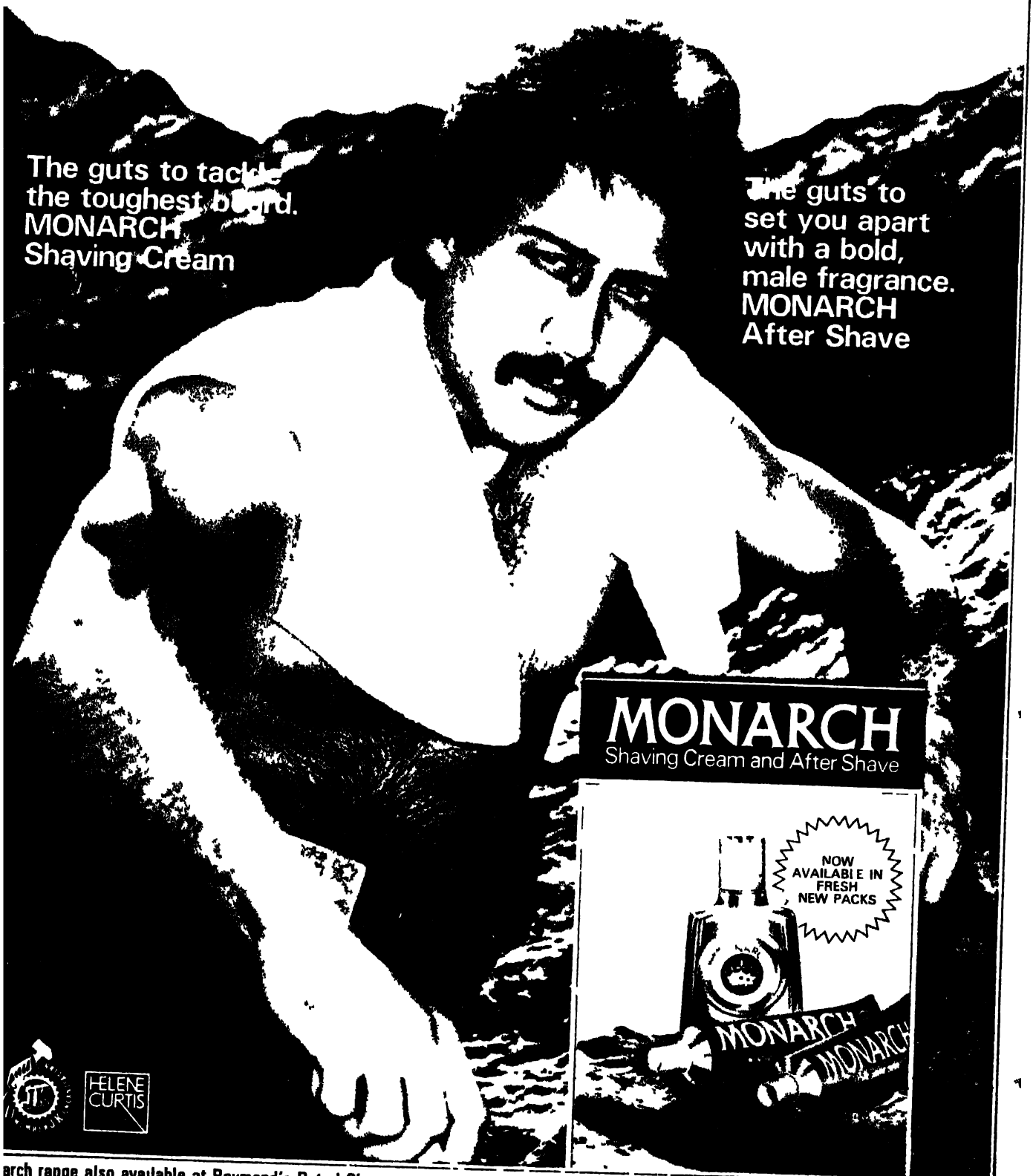




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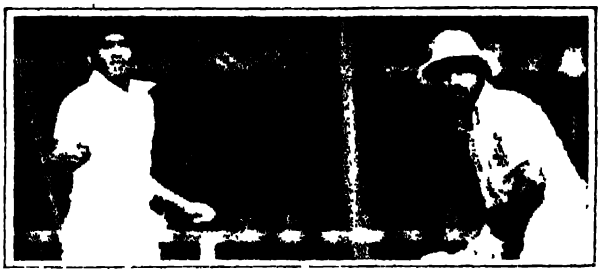
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Letters to the Editor

No politics

THE Indian football team, which performed brilliantly in the Merdeka tournament, would have won but for an injudicious selection policy Politics happens to be the dominating factor in the minds of the selectors while choosing the team. It is indeed a great pity that the skill and ability of certain players and their experience and competence are sometimes overlooked It is politics which has shattered the hopes of certain talented players of gaining inclusion in the squad It has been proved time and again that Ashoke Ghose and others are engaged in the worst kind of politics which has destroyed the dream of many a young player These officials are entirely motivated by their own selfish ends while they are not in the least interested in Indian soccer They should give up this attitude if India is to perform well in the coming Asian Games in Delhi

PRAHLAD GHOSH,
Calcutta

National unity

THE fact that Mohammedan Sporting Club emerged champions of the Senior Division Football League this year is of great significance First, it showed the loyalty of the non-Muslim players towards their club Secondly, it indicated president Erfan Randerian's sincere efforts to assemble bright and promising players from various clubs of Calcutta and form a strong team During pre-Partition days Mohammedan Sporting Club had only Muslim players due to the fact that there were plenty of Muslim players then in the country At that time, the aim of every Indian footballer was to set about destroying the supremacy of the Whites in football This was the common force that bound our own soccer stars Mohun Bagan was the first Indian team to break the stranglehold of the British supremacy when they won the I F A Shield in 1911 Thereafter, Mohammedan Sporting Club lifted the Durand Cup in 1944

Mohammedan Sporting's feat this year was significant because players of varying backgrounds, both Muslim and non Muslim, combined harmoniously to form a winning outfit This should go a long way in solving the communal problem which tormented Calcutta soccer last year

SURENDRA BHOWMICK
and
SAIFUZ ZAMAN
Dibrugarh

Interesting

THE articles on Syed Kirmani and Rodney Marsh were not only interesting but also very good Had there been an article on Alan Knott it would have been even more fitting

As an ardent lover of sport, I am eagerly looking forward to future issues of *Sportsworld* with such articles

T M C VASUDEVAN,
Calcutta

Incorrect

IN the caption given under the picture which appeared along with the article, "Bhopal Hockey tangle settled finally" in the issue of September 16, it has been stated that Aslam Sher Khan first played in an All India tournament in 1961 To the best of my knowledge Aslam Sher Khan is not more than 31, and hence could not have played for Saifia College in 1961

R S Raghavan,
Bombay

Factual errors

THERE were two factual errors in the article "Profile in Courage" in your issue of September 9 under 'Sportspeople'. First, custodian Mir Ranjan Negi, to the best of my knowledge, never played as a forward in the Inter-Varsity Hockey Tournament However, he did play as a forward for his college in the Inter-Collegiate tournament Secondly, as far as my knowledge goes, the I H F has placed an order with a leading firm of Jullundur to provide standard equipment of


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international specifications to every player for the European tour. So, the question of special shoes for astroturf is irrelevant in the present context.

S. B QURESHI,
Indore.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Mohun Bagan for remaining unbeaten against East Bengal in all the encounters so far—in the Federation Cup, the League and the I F.A. Shield This is a great achievement for a team which was considered the third side this year

BISWANATH PAUL,
Bongaon.

HEARTIEST congratulations to B S Chandrashekhar, India's former Test spinner, for being bestowed with honorary life membership of the M C C. He is the first bowler from the South to receive this honour We Indians should be proud of him

RAJIV DUTTA,
Sindri

Thanks

I TAKE this opportunity to thank *Sportsworld* for providing us with two excellent articles on Terry Alderman The blow-up of Alderman was also superb Thanks again for bringing back the comic strip "SPORTY"

SUSHAVAN BASU,
Calcutta

THANKS to Sarajit Deb for his report on "Indian squad to Merdeka" which, I hope, will convince our selectors about the drawbacks of this team

NIRMAL KUMAR PAUL,
Ranchi.

Attention

WE would like to draw the attention of the selection committee of the Indian Football Association (I F.A) through this letter

Considering the fact that Bengal's performance in the last Santosh Trophy was very poor, it is felt that it would have been better had the selectors been more realistic in selecting the team This feeling is prompted by the fact that last year many experienced players were excluded from the team on the grounds that youngsters should be given a chance. While nobody will dispute the necessity of infusing fresh blood in the team, it is not a wise policy to pursue this principle at the cost of players who are indispensable to the team One hardly finds a reason to justify the axing of Subrata Bhattacharya and Prasun Banerjee. The reason for their exclusion can be attributed to misunderstandings between these players and the officials in question

This year's Bengal team for the Santosh Trophy should be selected from among the following players: Bhaskar Ganguly (vice-captain), Compton Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya (captain), Monoranjan Bhattacharya, Shyamal Banerjee, Mihir Bose, Prasun Banerjee, Prasanta Banerjee, Manash Bhattacharya, Majid Baskar and Surajit Sengupta Reserves Shivaji Banerjee, Samar Bhattacharya, Moidul Islam, Aloke Mukherjee, Gautam Sarkar, Krishnendu Roy, Xavier Pius, Shabbir Ali, and Bidesh Bose

SANJEEB BOSE, SHANTANU NANDY and ANJAN CHATTERJEE,
Calcutta

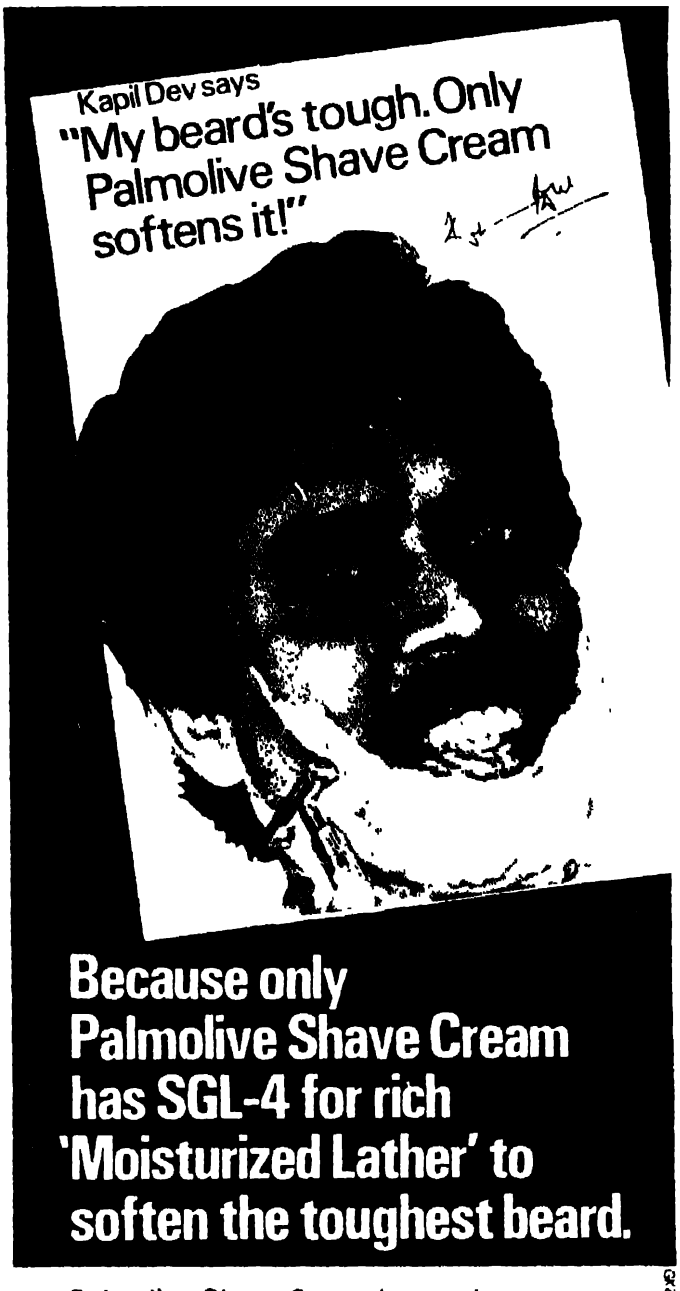
Unfair

THE views expressed by Sanjeev Mehta regarding Karsan Ghavri in the issue of September 16 were indeed surprising, he has undoubtedly underesti mated Ghavri for some unknown reasons

Karsan was excluded from the New Zealand-bound Indian team at a time when he was definitely the best medium pacer in the country. Obviously, he was dropped because of reasons other than merit, therefore he had every reason to be shocked. It is admitted that Ghavri can never be treated on par with Kapil insofar as talent is concerned, but we should not be oblivious of the fact that when Ghavri entered the Test scene the Indian spinners—Bedi, Prasanna, Chandra and Venkat—were the heroes, while he used to bowl only a few overs in the initial part of the innings before the spin ners took over Further, when Kapil appeared on the Test scene the great spinners were well on their way downhill

Moreover, circumstances have never permitted Ghavri to play his natural game as a batsman

SAIBAL CHATTERJEE,
Calcutta



Sportsworld Exclusive

My life in Denmark

PRAKASH PADUKONE describes his new lifestyle in Copenhagen, where he has signed a contract with Akai and Yonex. The photographs are by KENNETH EWALD

FOLLOWING the All England tournament in March this year, I underwent strenuous training. True, I had my own problems last season although I managed to end the season quite satisfactorily by reaching the final of the All England.

It was imperative that I have a bit of a rest after the All England, for the simple reason that I played a lot of badminton over the last two years, most of it without a break. Trying to maintain one's form over such a long period is indeed a difficult task and believe me, it takes a great deal out of you both mentally and physically. There is enough pressure on you because you are a ranked player in the eyes of the world and there is the constant fear that your form might suddenly elude you. But that is something you have to put up with all the time.

I needed some time away from the game, away from the pressure and tension that accompanies top-flight competition. Luckily for me, there were no major international tournaments immediately after the All-England, so I was able to take one and a half months off on holiday, so to speak. I went to Greece for about a week and gave up training completely for an entire month. I then went on to Iceland, where I played a couple of exhibition matches. I also played a couple of games in Sweden as well. In Iceland, I played with Ray Stevens, the England number one. This was in the last week of April and formed part of the training for the coming season.

Besides, it also gave me a chance to do some sightseeing and to take my mind off the game. This would not necessarily have been an easy task in another country, but I was able to do so in Iceland simply because the standard of badminton there is not very high at all. This made it so much easier to relax and take it easy. There was never any tension and I found it very easy to wind down.

It was, all in all, an extremely enjoyable trip since Iceland is quite different from most other European countries. I actually saw some live volcanoes there on my travels. In addition, I also attended Danish classes for six weeks in the summer, so I kept myself occupied! I can now understand a little of the Danish language and can also speak a smattering of it as well.

I only commenced training again in the middle of May after a wonderful rest. I did a lot of long distance running in the summer, a period when most of the top players in Europe take a break from the game, preferring instead to devote their attention to

Prakash, Olaf Haldorf (Director of Akai) and Finn Jacobsen (Prakash's manager and president of the Hvidovre Badminton Club)



other things. Some of them take to tennis, others prefer running, while still others might prefer to do nothing at all.

All clubs in Denmark are closed for about two months in the summer, but our club, the Hvidovre Badminton Club, has a special summer training programme for physical fitness.

I used to run with the club team on two occasions every week—Tuesdays and Thursdays. Normally, however, my programme is chalked out by my coach Svend Carlson. Incidentally, he has also coached Svend Pri and Lene Koppen in the past and has also been in charge of physical training for both the Dutch national teams, the men's and women's. It would be an extremely hard task to locate a man who has a more thorough knowledge of the game and all it involves. His knowledge is unbelievably thorough and he is also excellent when it comes to physical training.

Apart from all this, he was a very famous athlete himself till just a couple of years ago. That might seem incredible when one considers the fact that he is 42 at present, but he is so fit that he looks much younger. It was he who was mainly responsible for my staging a comeback after a bad patch earlier in the season last year. He is a great person and a pleasure to work with.

Besides having played with the top Danish badminton stars like Frost, Flemming and Svend Pri, I also went to London and Stockholm where I was able to get in some games with both English and Swedish players. In Stockholm I played with Thomas Khilstrom, the Swedish number one, in the first week of June. We played an exhibition match against one another on June 4 in Stockholm, after which I went on to London in the first week of July. I stayed there eight days to train with some of the leading English players, including Ray Stevens, Kevin Jolly, Nick Yates.

I find these trips extremely beneficial in two ways. Firstly, one gets the opportunity to practise with different players, thereby avoiding the danger of getting used to one or two opponents. This way, you get used to playing against various players and you are kept on your toes constantly to thwart them in their bid for victory. Let me stress at this point that practice matches are not taken lightly by either of the participants, for such games are vital to a player's development. The second reason is that one gets to know the players better, on a personal basis. It was a good experience for me since I was staying with Khilstrom and Stevens in Stockholm and London respectively.

I ALSO played in the inaugural World Games at Santa Clara, California, in the last week of July, but I lost in the semi-finals to Cheng Lee of China with the scoreline reading 18-14, 18-16. It was the first time in my career that I had played against him. He is ranked number two in China at present and has a very powerful smash. An added asset is that he can smash on both flanks with an identical action and this serves to confuse opponents to the extent of getting them in some sort of a tangle.

Another of his strong points is that he makes contact with the shuttle very early by jumping in the air. This tactic is his main weapon and as can be expected, it is rather lethal. He is an impressive player and one who should not be taken lightly.

There were other important features of the badminton at the World Games. Morten Frost Hansen beat Liem Swie King for the first time in his career. Morten emerged victorious in three games, this was in the other semi-final. However, Morten lost to Cheng Lee in the final, another match that went to three games. It was a very close encounter, but both players were obviously very tired in the closing stages.



There was rather an absurd reason for this. The semi-finals and the finals were played on the same day, the semi-final games in the afternoon session and the final in the the evening. This is very unusual, to say the least and the organisers should have realised that the players would need a rest before the final. It was the least that could have been done, but apparently there was no other alternative. It certainly was an eye opener—and a rather unpleasant one at that—for the participants.

On the whole, there were some excellent matches on view, but the unfortunate part of the whole affair was that media coverage was extremely poor. In addition, attendance during the tournament was a major letdown. It might seem strange, but there were not more than 800 spectators present at the final. In my estimation, there are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the game itself is not very popular in the United States of America. Secondly, there just was not enough publicity for the event, either on the radio or on television.

Another important aspect of the badminton event at the World Games was that not a single Indonesian player figured in any of the finals. This was something of a phenomenon, surely, judging from the fact that they have dominated the game for so many years. It has finally begun to look as though their supremacy is being challenged at last, and in no uncertain terms at that. China have now emerged as their most serious rivals. It was something of a shock to the badminton fraternity to see four of the five titles were captured by Chinese players. The only exception was the mixed doubles, which title was claimed by Thomas Khilstrom in partnership with Gillian Gilks.

Coming back to my Denmark routine, I generally follow two main sessions, morning and evening. I normally play in the morning as it is much easier to get a court at that time. Later, in the evening, there is quite a rush for the courts so one has to wait. For this reason, I prefer the morning as it cuts out the rush and the problem of waiting for a court.

In the evenings it is either physical training or stroke practice. If it is not these two, then I practise with the club team. I play on two or three occasions a week with Frost and generally twice a week with Svend Pri, Flemming Delfs, who had been working with Yonex – one of my sponsors—all these years, resigned recently and instead has now started his own sports business. He has acquired the agency for "Patrick" shoes, a very popular French brand. Because of his new business commitments, he has very little time to devote to the game.

I am now feeling much better at Copenhagen and have got over a number of my initial problems and stumbling blocks. Of course, it is very strange to be in a new country and to try and adapt to a completely new lifestyle, a far cry from the one I was habituated to in India. I have things organised now and so I have fewer problems. I have got used to my surroundings, have made a few new friends and have also got used to the food and the weather—important aspects, the last two.

Besides, I have been helped a great deal by my manager Finn Jacobsen, whose family have been extremely good to me. There are also two or three Indian families who are helping me to a great extent, so I am more at ease now than I was when I first came across here, but I suppose that was only to be expected with the passage of time.

My present contract with Akai expires in November this year, but I haven't decided on what my next move should be. However, I will be taking a decision on whether to renew the contract or not in the near future.

I am now looking forward to playing the Indian Masters in November.

China corner the lion's share of glory

ASHIS RAY reports on the recently concluded Masters Badminton tournament

A YEAR and a half ago, Prakash Padukone looked unstoppable The Masters title of 1979 and the All England crown of 1980 were both in his satchel, and he had the badminton world at his feet But fate has not smiled on him since then In the interim, he has lost the All England, was deprived of the status of official world champion in Indonesia, and has now been sunk in the Masters for the second time Where does he go from here?

Ten months prior to this, Prakash, unhappy about the lack of competition at home and lured by contracts from Yorex and Akai, who facilitated the arrangement with a Danish club, left home and went to Copenhagen The object was to sustain his eminence, indeed to improve upon it

But despite the advanced training methods, the opportunity to practise with the likes of Morten Frost Hansen and Fleming Delfs, his game appears to have lost its edge In contrast, Hansen, although unimpressive in the recent Masters has notched up remarkable victories in the period concerned, winning more prize money than anyone else, and possibly benefiting from the presence of the Indian

Yet Prakash, whose touch play was a sight to behold, somehow does not indicate the same "feel" of the shuttle He was seen to rely heavily on the smash in the match with the Chinese number one, Han Jian, but the absence of basic athleticism in his approach makes this a weapon he can hardly bank upon Perhaps it is the European influence which is unearthing this element of power in his style

But the tragedy is, he has not quite mastered this trend, while the inherent control over the subtler and more artistic aspects of the game seems to have deserted him to a certain extent His defence, too, rock-like at one stage, is no longer as safe and sturdy as it used to be

One recalls that in the Masters last year, when Prakash had already started on the downward slide, Liem Swie King, the winner of the tournament, would resist unleashing his thunderous smashes unless certain of a kill Time and again in the All

Morten Frost Hansen and Lene Koppen share a tense moment



England six months earlier, the Indonesian had extended himself fully for a smash, only to find the Indian retrieve it with machine like efficiency, and sometimes, with a placement to boot

But it was not the same Prakash in the Masters last month He recorded a significant victory over Han Jian, but neutralised the impact of this with the defeat at the hands of the Chinese number two Luan Jin Frankly on the basis of his initial showing in the tournament, not many would have fancied his prospects of regaining the title

He was taken to three games by Thomas Kihlstrom of Sweden 18-14, 5 15, 15-4, and though not inconvinced in any way by Britain's Kevin Jolly, the Bangalorean was not particularly incisive in beating him 15 11, 15-8 All the same, this paved the way for a vital meeting between Prakash and Jian in Group "A" The 25-year old physical instructor from China had got the better of Kihlstrom and Jolly as well, but more easily And, so, as hundreds of people packed into the galleries at the Royal Albert Hall, they came more in anticipation of a good match than a triumph for Prakash

A win, logically, pointed in the direction of Jian, who had eclipsed both King and Hansen convincingly this year

Anyhow, as everybody settled down for the late night clash a wind of uncertainty suddenly began to blow across the indoor arena It became evident from the very outset that Prakash was in much better touch than he had been in his two previous outings, and that his opponent had a real fight in his hands

The first game was won by Jian 15-11, but Prakash was very near to clinching it when leading 11 8 A loss of concentration on the part of the Indian, however, cleared the coast for his opponent

But the night was still young Prakash changed tactics in the second game, and, playing with the 'draft' subjected his rival to an unusual examination Anything remotely in the air was punished with a smash If the first stroke did not work, bang came the repeat They were not the blinding smashes of King, but highly penetrative as a result of the accuracy or the last second wristy changes of direction It left Jian's slightly suspect 'defence' riddled with holes, and earned Prakash eight of his first nine points The Chinaman, down 1-8 and then 3-11, recovered somewhat but went down strongly 15 13

In the deciding game, Jian maintained the pace up to 6 all, but was simply outplayed thereafter, losing 15-8 This last patch witnessed Prakash at his very best The smash again played an important part, but more stimulating were the drop shots, the 'dribbles' and the deceptive slices from the back court. They left the redoubtable Chinese leaden-footed, and gasping for breath



Indonesia's Handinata Christian (right) and Britain's Kevin Jolly in their moment of victory in the men's doubles

But it all came to nought as the following afternoon Luan Jin, who had beaten him in the last Asian Games in Bangkok thrashed him 15-9, 15 8 in 35 minutes Admittedly the 68 minute struggle with Jian, only 16 hours before the final, had taken a lot out of Prakash But that is no excuse at the highest level of the game Indeed, stamina is as important as skill in the making of a champion Prakash committed several unforced errors, looked slow on his feet and just could not pressurise his opponent

He drew level, after trailing at nine all, but fell into an erratic trot immediately afterwards and that concluded the first game In the second Jin rocketed ahead to 14 4, with Prakash falling prey to some pulverising cross court smashes The latter saved three match points, but it was all over bar the shouting The contest never rose to any great heights, and there were few long rallies, but China, participating in the Masters for the first time, had made it a 'double' in the singles scene since earlier, Zhang Ailing had outwitted Lene Koppen of Denmark, last year's winner, 11 6, 11 12, 11-6

So, an ecstatic moment for China, but amidst the admiration from all, one sensed the agony of a man who has the talent to be the world's best yet cannot deliver the coup de grace Prakash Padukone

Confronting him now are the challenges of the Indian and Danish Masters tournaments and the big question is can he override his weaknesses and remedy the faults that have crept into his game His drawback is mainly his physical attributes, which he cannot eradicate overnight For example the fact that he hardly raises himself from the ground to effect a smash evokes a lack of elasticity in his movements which is likely to remain with him for some time to come And that will continue to negate an aggressive outlook which is essential if he is to upgrade his current performance

However he should more easily succeed in rediscovering his ancient grasp over touch play This rare accoutrement has always been his trump card, and if he can regain this genius his wife-to be on 16 December can expect a more memorable wedding present than the runner up's prize in the Masters


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Analysis

Here comes Sri Lanka

SCYLD BERRY, cricket correspondent of "The Observer" examines the nature of Sri Lanka cricket and assesses the country's potential

SERENDIP, then Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, is the island which has furnished the word meaning "the ability to make happy discoveries", serendipity In return, at the last ICC meeting, the Sri Lankans were happy to discover that they had been proposed by India, seconded by Pakistan, and unanimously elected to full Test status.

It is only natural that doubts should exist as to whether the new members can sustain Test series abroad, or a number of Test match grounds at home, and a domestic competition of first-class standard. But since England and Australia founded the Test club, all new members have taken the best part of a generation to settle down It is unreasonable therefore to expect immediate results of Sri Lanka

In playing terms, if at present they lack fast bowlers and a disciplined, five-day approach to the game, they offer wristy delights in spin bowling and batting Perhaps more importantly, they will also bring to international cricket a standard of behaviour which traditionalists at least will welcome, a standard which only India these days can honestly claim to maintain

Asked whether his team ever indulged in "sledging", that modern practice of abusing a batsman in order to disturb his concentration, the assistant manager of their 1981 touring party replied disarmingly: "Sludging, what is sludging?" Their gentle manners are perhaps what one might expect from Buddhist cricketers.

The Sri Lankans learnt all about cricket and its code of sportsmanship from British Raj-types and tea-planters So it is a trifle embarrassing that it was the England touring side of 1976-77, under the captaincy of A W Greig, which first acquainted them with gamesmanship, "sledging" and the modern tricks of the trade The younger players on tour for the first time this year were surprised—to the extent of culture shock—that cricket behaviour in Mother England was not as exemplary as they had been led to expect. Maybe the pupils can now help teach the masters.

The game in Sri Lanka "took off" in 1975 when they made their first tour to England, which was also their first outside the Indian sub-continent The prestige that attaches to overseas touring accelerated cricket's growth in popularity, although it was already the primary sport. Their top cricketers are now rivalled, for glamour, only by local film stars

There are now tournaments for schoolboys of every age from 11 upwards Banks and industry provide increasing amounts of sponsorship Live television coverage began with the Australians' recent visit The government subsidises (about £ 25,000 for their 1981 tour) In a country where the cost of living is low, the match fee to date, of 500 rupees (£ 14) a day, has gone a long way

But even though semi-professionalism is growing, Sri Lankan cricket is still essentially amateur, in that first and foremost the players play out of enthusiasm (receiving nothing but expenses for their tours abroad) They make a happy crowd on and off the field, smiling, their slight figures smartly dressed in blazers, they are old fashioned in their style of cricket and behaviour, like cricketers of a generation ago. From a cynical point of view, they may prove naive when it comes to the tougher side of Test cricket—not "walking", sledging, iron self-discipline—but it would be a shame in a way if they ever learn

THEY are old-fashioned too in their reliance on spin bowlers In D. S. de Silva, a brisk leg-spin and googly bowler, they must have the best of his type in the world, a pity for them he is 37 ('D. S.' is also their only full-time professional, making his living mostly in England) Kaluperuma is a fair offspin bowler, Wijesuriya promising But their other bowler of true international calibre is Ajit de Silva, no relation, who puts plenty of shoulder into his left-arm spinners. When the Australians played a representative match against Sri Lanka earlier this year, Ajit took 9 for 100 in 67 overs

And opening bowlers? Their function, as in India, used to be to get rid of the shine, but nowadays de Mel is better than that Among their school boys there are several six-foot genuine pace bowlers, and Ravi Ratnayeke in the 1981 party towered to 6 ft 3 ins.

Of their batsmen, the Sri Lankan management complains mildly that they are too attacking. They have been brought to England to be cured of their adventurous instincts (in which case, one might say, they chose the right place). Maybe they are attacking by nature, like their compatriot Gehan Mendis of Sussex, or they are conditioned by playing two-day matches at home, over the weekend, and have to attack to achieve an outright result. Whichever the cause, it is refreshing to watch them square-cutting and square-driving from the outset.

This style of batsmanship, and their shortage as yet of incisive quick bowlers, explains why the Sri Lankans have been so relatively successful in one-day internationals They beat the 1981 Australians by six wickets, and lost two games marginally, by one run and six runs They defeated India in the 1979 World Cup by 47 runs, and they beat the MCC in 1976-77 by three wickets

For Test matches they will be greatly strengthened if Anura Tennekoon, their old captain can be persuaded out of retirement He has the five-day temperament and the most experience of making large scores. They have two good openers and superb strokemakers in Roy Dias and Duleep Mendis, but they need the solidity of Tennekoon at number three. Their Test side against England in February could look like Warnapura, Wettimuny, Tennekoon, Mendis, Dias, Madugalle or Ranasinghe, de Mel, Kaluperuma, D S. de Silva, Gunattilleka (wicket keeper) and Ajit de Silva.

To stage their Test matches, Colombo can offer the Singhalese Sports Club ground, capacity 20,000, and the less capacious Colombo Oval Moratuwa, a few miles out of Colombo, has staged a couple of international matches, and up in the hills at Kandy another stadium is to be developed

On population grounds there is no reason why Sri Lanka should not be able to justify Test status With 12-13 millions, the island is as populous as Australia, and much bigger than the West Indies or New Zealand. The majority are Singhalese, but there are also two million Tamils, brought over from Southern India to the tea plantations by the British Tension between the two has surfaced, but one is assured that cricket selection is made entirely on merit One Tamil, Jaganathan, toured here in 1979, but none this time.Their 1981 party was fairly equally divided between Christians and Buddhists Buddhists are the country's majority sect, the relatively high proportion of Christian cricketers indicates that cricket there, as elsewhere, is a predominantly middle-class game, though spreading to the masses particulary in its spectator appeal

Given time, and a reasonable programme of short tours to initiate them, the Sri Lankans should prove pleasant and worthwhile additions to the Test match club

Courtesy Wisden Cricket Monthly

Cover Story

WILLS TROPHY 1981

Bombay pull it off in style

HARESH MUNWANI reports on the matches at Indore and the final at Kanpur, while PRAKASH BHANDARI covers the games at Jaipur RAJU MUKHERJEE recounts the events of the washed-out match between Bengal and Hyderabad at Nagpur

BOMBAY vs HARYANA

SUNIL GAVASKAR won the toss and invited Haryana to take the first knock. Karsan Ghavri started the proceedings by bowling to Sarabjit Singh while from the other end Balwinder Sandhu bowled to Rajeev Anand. Ghavri bowled four overs in his first spell. He bowled one no ball and two wides and it was obvious that he was having some problems. Ghavri said "The wicket had some life in it and the ball was swinging quite a bit. Moreover my natural tendency is to slant the ball outside the off stump. The rules for the one day game specify that if the ball is more than two feet away from the stumps it is a wide, irrespective of where the ball has actually pitched. In view of this I was aiming at the leg stump and hence the errors.

Suru Nayak replaced Ghavri, but the Haryana batsmen could not really get going and had scored just 25 in eleven overs. It was at this stage that Rajeev Anand took advantage of the rule that specifies that in the first 15 overs only two fielders can stand outside the 30-yard circle. Accordingly, he began hitting Nayak and Sandeep Patil who had replaced Sandhu. Sarabjit, who was finding it difficult to get the bowling away drove Nayak uppishly down the wicket in the 13th over. The bowler stretched out his hand on the left side but the ball deflected from his palm to the boundary.

At the other end, Rajeev was going for big hits on the leg side, more often than not missing the ball completely. Sensing this Gavaskar placed a deep mid wicket and asked Patil to feed Rajeev. Soon enough Rajeev obliged and Nayak took the catch, but not before the batsman had six boundaries in his 31. With the score reading 45 in 14 overs the batting order was reshuffled and Yograj came in next in a bid to accelerate the run rate. Yograj started in great fashion hitting Nayak straight over the bowler's head. This seemed to inspire Sarabjit who hit successive fours off Nayak in the same over which meant that the bowler conceded 25 runs in two overs. Nayak said, "I think what I was doing was pitching the ball up and the batsman started hitting over the top, obviously they decided to take risks." Not surprisingly Ravi Shastri replaced Nayak and in his very first over met with success when Yograj gave a simple return catch. Shastri was on target from the very beginning and soon had Sarabjit caught by Ashok Mankad to make Haryana 81 for three in the 21st over. Kapil joined Ashok Malhotra, and with Patil and Shastri bowling to a tight line runs were not easy to come by. Both batsmen went for the singles by some deft placements, the idea being to keep the score board moving. When Kapil was 19 he gave a sharp return chance to Shastri who dived valiantly to his right, but failed to fasten on to it.

After Patil had consumed his quota of ten overs, in which he yielded only 35 runs, Sandhu was recalled to the attack. In his second over, Sandhu moved one sharply to pierce the gap between Ashok Malhotra's bat and pad to clean bowl the diminutive batsman for 27 useful runs. With Shastri finishing at two for 38, Kapil was all set to go for the bowling. Shastri's intelligent bowling always made him look dangerous. In spite of the fact that seven men were placed on the boundary line Kapil successfully lifted Ghavri for a six over long on. But in trying to repeat the stroke Kapil was caught by Ghulam Parkar. Kapil provided the momentum for the Haryana batting and when he departed the score read a healthy 187. Kapil's 57 included four boundaries and one six.

With Kapil gone one expected, Bombay to capitalise on this and restrict

Jubilant Bombay team with the Wills Trophy



Haryana's score to a modest total But Ravinder Chadha propped up the innings to see Haryana to a very reasonable total of 234 for 9. Chadha made 33

When Bombay began their reply Ghulam Parkar was soon trying to force Kapil to point, but only succeeded in giving wicketkeeper Ahmed a simple catch Vengsarkar, who joined Gavaskar, began in an aggressive mood He drove Kapil to the boundary and in the very next over drove Yograj for two fours, one straight and the other through the cover region Kapil took himself off and brought in Rakesh Jolly, but he made no impression on the batsmen Gavaskar and Vengsarkar took some judicious singles with good understanding between them

The fifty of the innings came in just 13 overs and the hundred in the 23rd over Vengsarkar tried to force Rajinder Goel through mid wicket, but in the process he only edged the ball and Goel took a simple catch Patil came amidst tremendous welcome, and Gavaskar celebrated his arrival by completing his fifty which included five fours Sarkar Talwar, the Haryana off-spinner went round the wicket to Gavaskar and one particular delivery, which was not short enough, Sunil tried to square cut only to spoon a dolly catch to Chadha

Ashok Mankad joined Patil At this stage, Patil was dropped by Goel off his own bowling Patil enjoyed another piece of luck when on 36 he gave a dolly catch but survived because of the misunderstanding between Kapil and the bowler Talwar

Talwar bowled the 39th over the first ball of which was lifted by Patil over mid-on for a six The fourth ball Sandeep again tried to hit for a six and was caught on the fence Patil scored 52 with the help of three sixes Patil's exit had an adverse repercussion on the Bombay batting Solkar, Ghavri and Shastri were out in quick succession, and with the score reading 206 for 7 at the fall of Ravi's wicket, Haryana were back in the game

But Ashok Mankad who was still at the wicket kept hopes alive for Bombay He is an experienced cricketer He held the innings together at a critical time and guided Suru Nayak through that phase Yograj conceded ten runs in the 47th over and fourteen runs in the 49th over Nayak, in particular, hit a courageous innings of 19 with three fours

Mankad, who was unbeaten with 44, in the Bombay score of 236 for 7, said "It was a calculated and planned innings I knew that as long as we stayed there we would get loose balls and that was all we needed to ease the pressure"

The Haryana all rounder, Kapil Dev, said, "Winning is not everything I think my boys played very well A score of 234 against Bombay was a good show All I can say is that we enjoyed ourselves" Kapil's batting in the Deodhar Trophy and, particularly in this match showed a degree of responsibility not usually associated with his batting Is it due to the fact that he now carries the burden of captaincy that he is less inclined to throw away his wicket? Kapil replied, "It is because I failed as a batsman on the Australian and New Zealand tours People started questioning my competence as an all rounder, and this is the reason why I have decided to take my batting seriously in a bid to make up for the lapses It has got nothing to do with captaincy"

Explaining the reasons for fielding first Gavaskar said, "Our strength lies in our batting, while our bowling is not just that good I felt that chasing even a mammoth total would not be difficult for us as we have batsmen right down to number eleven"



BOMBAY VS HARYANA Ashok Malhotra clean bowled by B Sandhu

HYDERABAD vs BENGAL

THERE, the rival captains go out to toss Dilip Doshi and Narasimha Rao, both neatly attired as all cricketers should be The left arm that has spun many a ball on shirt-front wickets flips the coin up in the air The Hyderabad skipper surely has his fingers crossed as he calls and waits for the magic moment From a distance of about 90 yards one can hardly distinguish the winner Phlegmatic men, both of them However, as Rao extends his congratulations, I can well imagine his thoughts Only year before last he had met with a similar fate at my hands in a Ranji Trophy tie Cricket can be a very cruel game at times

The 'congratulations" and the "bad lucks" over, we were settling down for the ride back to the comfort of the Central Provinces Club which still retains its old world charm In fact a replica of Tollygunge Club of Calcutta A soft, scholarly voice brought me away from a reverie, "Raju, don't you think cricket is a funny game? It really is On a glorious day as this there can be no cricket" It was Nishi Mukherjee speaking Did I detect a note of disappointment in his voice? Well, I fully agree with the ITC Nagpur branch manager's sentiments

And who can honestly blame him? Here is a person, with the typical Bengali passion for soccer and music as well as an avid interest in cricket, who along with his devoted band of staffers had left no stone unturned to make the Wills Trophy fixture at Nagpur a smashing success

But their efforts had come to nought as the heavy downpour for two days had rendered the ground unplayable But the spirit of the Vidharbha Cricket Association officials never flagged They made their best efforts for play to start, but unfortunately these proved futile Experienced Test umpires Papan Punjabi and Swarup Kishan had just no option but to call off play for the day

The three to four thousand spectators, mostly young boys and girls, who had come to enjoy cricket were disappointed So were the players, the umpires, the sponsors and the officials But what can mortals do if fate wills otherwise?

There was no cricket at Nagpur that September day, it's true But I daresay the congenial company and the excellent food more than made up for the loss of play, at least for me

UP vs BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI

OUR cricketers have not yet adapted themselves fully to the demands of the transformation of the modern cricket While a privileged few, who play international cricket, are acquainted with the nature and moods of limited-over cricket there are many who take this type of cricket, in the same spirit of a usual three-day Ranji Trophy tie

Uttar Pradesh, the winners of the Mewar Trophy, symbol of supremacy in the Central Zone, belongs to such a tribe At the Sawai Man Singh Stadium of the pink city of Jaipur, Uttar Pradesh proved that they are not cut out for one-day cricket They played the game to lose it and also made themselves a laughing stock by ignoring the norms of the game

The Wills Trophy quarter-final match between Board President's XI and Uttar Pradesh was a dull encounter. The match began amidst confusion Five of Uttar Pradesh players did not turn up in time posing serious problems to the organiser Vishwajit Sinha, T K Bhattacharya, Sunil Chaturvedi, Sashikant Khandekar and Ashok Bambi, who belong to Lucknow and Kanpur respectively, missed the Lucknow-Kanpur Delhi flight because of rain They could reach Delhi only on the morning of the match However, they reached well in time to catch the early morning flight to Jaipur The plane in which they were travelling developed trouble and could not land at Jaipur The aircraft went back to Delhi

ITC, the organisers of the Wills Trophy should be commended for the efforts they made at Delhi by impressing upon the Indian Airlines Engineering Department that a delayed departure would mean cancellation of the tie As luck would have it, the pursuasion clicked and the flight reached Jaipur and the match was delayed for only 45 minutes The match lasted for 50 overs

Uttar Pradesh had its problems as skipper Mohammed Shahid could not arrive in Jaipur because he suddenly fell ill, and their ace batsman Anil Bhanot, who was away in Europe also could not come This adversely affected the strength of the UP squad

Anil Mathur who led the team won the toss but asked Board President's XI to bat Srikkanth, the Tamil Nadu opening batsman, and Raman Lamba, who opened the Board's innings were going well Srikkanth was beautifully executing his strokes But disaster followed soon when Srikkanth involved himself in two run out decisions and that too off successive balls

Raman Lamba, who had scored just five runs, had hit medium pacer Vishwajit Sinha unnecessarily and tried to take a third run A reluctant Srikkanth asked his partner to go back It was a gross misunderstanding for which Srikkanth was partly responsible Yashpal Sharma, who was desperately trying to establish himself, was the next victim He hit Vishwajit Sinha in the very next ball after Lamba got out. He hit him towards backward point and went for a run, while wicketkeeper Vijay Chopra picked up the throw of Subhash Sharma and ran Yashpal out, but Yashpal should be accused of not trying to save himself Srikkanth after these two run outs lost his concentration He displayed a few good shots before falling to Anil Mathur for 37

With two down for thirty seven, the Madan Lal led Board President's XI looked to be in trouble but Kirti Azad and seasoned Brijesh Patel thrilled the crowd Kirti Azad, the Delhi collegian, was particularly severe on the spinners Gopal Sharma and Rajinder Singh Hans Brijesh also played his strokes freely using his feet and wrists He was the first man to go with the total reading 88 for four wickets

Brijesh is a batsman who, by technique and temperament, is ideally suited for the one-day game, and his claims for a place in the Indian team for the one day international fixtures against England in the coming winter cannot be ignored

After his failure in the Deodhar Trophy Kirti found his touch at Jaipur The presence of Kirti's father, Bhagwat Jha Azad, a Union Minister, who suddenly flew to Jaipur to see his son's batting surely inspired Kirti who hit four sixes and four fours in his flamboyant innings Hans, Gopal Sharma and Subhash Sharma, were all severely punished, being hit over the fence But Subhash, a left-arm spinner, bowled better than Gopal and Hans and he should have had Kirti had not Shashikant Khandekar dropped the ball under the rays of the scorching sun at long on Vishwajit Sinha, the medium pacer, unmindful of the Benson and Hedges rules, bowled at least four wide balls

It is interesting to note that most of the players were not well acquainted with the Benson and Hedges rules The hosts did try to educate the players about the rules by circulating a cyclostyled copy of the rules among them

Kirti moved his feet well and timed his shots, perfectly, thus helping the team increase the run rate per over He fell to Vishwajit Sinha while trying to hit him out of the ground It was Gopal Sharma who took his catch Madan Lal who gave a remarkable account of himself in the domestic season last year, did not impress at all in his innings of 28 However, the young all-rounder Deepak Chopra, did impress, remaining unbeaten with 24 Subhash Sharma, the left-arm spinner, is an intelligent bowler who bagged two wickets like skipper Mathur, while Gopal Sharma and Hans drew blank

Uttar Pradesh played their quota of overs as if they were forcing a draw in a three day tie Shashikant Khandekar, who toured with the under 20 Indian team to England, and Sunil Chaturvedi made a bright start adding 43 runs for the first wicket But as the rate of scoring was three per over, the batsman lower down the order could not surpass the Board's score of 236 for 7 scored in the stipulated fifty overs

Randhir Singh, the Bihar medium pacer, bowled well to capture three wickets and had impressive figures of 9-1-18-3 Sunil Chaturvedi, the Lucknow lad, made a stubborn 36. He also did well in the Deodhar Trophy He fell to Azad Ashok Bambi, who hit an unbeaten 45, may be proud of his contribution, but he should have known that he was playing a limited-over match Kirti Azad received the "man of the match" and "best batsman" awards and got Rs 1300

WILLS XI vs BOMBAY

WHEN Vishwanath, the captain of Wills XI, went out to toss with his counterpart from Bombay Sunil Gavaskar, he probably knew that the absence of Syed Kirmani would have repercussions on the result of the match. Kirmani was reported to be suffering from fever Obviously this was one of the reasons why Vishwanath opted to field even after winning the toss He said, "I thought if there was any dew on the wicket, considering the game started early, we could have taken advantage of this."

Sunil Valson and Roger Binny were in charge of the bowling operations to Gavaskar and Ghulam Parkar. In the eighth over Parkar, trying to drive Binny, failed to make contact with the ball and was bowled Valson and Binny gave away only 31 runs in ten overs The former made the batsmen play in front of their rib cages while the latter concentrated on the off stump

Mohinder Amarnath, who replaced Valson, often erred in length outside the off stump and Gavaskar promptly despatched him to the point boundary Vengsarkar was playing fluently Twice off successive deliveries he effortlessly drove Binny to the fence between mid on and mid wicket

Paramjit Singh, the left arm spinner from Orissa, was introduced into the attack after the fifteenth over Maintaining a steady line and length Paramjit troubled the batsmen with deliveries that left them after pitching Both Vengsarkar and Gavaskar were kept under tight control by Paramjit. Rakesh Shukla came in for the 31st over, but before he could settle down Vengsarkar drove him twice to the cover boundary. Paramjit got the wicket of Vengsarkar when the latter played onto his stumps Vengsarkar was out two short of his fifty which he secured in 88 deliveries

Sandeep Patil joined Gavaskar with the score reading 108 Sunil drove Shukla to the extra cover fence for his eighth four to reach his half-century With the score steadily increasing but success not coming their way, the Wills XI fielding began to crack under pressure Mohinder conceded 17 runs in the 39th over

Meanwhile Sandeep was scoring freely, but he was taking chances at times. Patil lifted Shukla to deep mid

on but local lad Sanjeeva Rao failed to judge the trajectory of the ball It was not the only time Shukla suffered Gavaskar at 90 stepped out to drive his googly and missed the ball but Central Zone wicketkeeper Menon who came in for Kirmani, failed to collect the ball which went for four byes So effective was Shukla in mixing the "wrong un" with his normal deliveries that both Patil and Gavaskar were frequently deceived

Sandeep was always on the lookout for runs and played a characteristic innings Vishwanath had all nine fielders on the fence but that did not deter Sandeep from trying to hoist a six Nothing succeeds like success In the last two overs Patil hit sixes each off Valson and Binny In fact, both Sunil and Sandeep displayed amazing control while lifting the ball. As there was no other fielder in the vicinity of the batsman except Aunshuman Gaekwad, who was stationed in the deep mid-wicket, Sandeep lifted Binny four times in an over

Gavaskar played a solid innings except for that one blemish against Shukla his concentration never suffered It was a neat and compact century Sunil said, "I just wanted to drop anchor at one end and let the other guy smash at the opposite end All I desired was that we should not lose wickets and to that point we were successful" With Sandeep unbeaten on 68 and Gavaskar not out at 102, Bombay registered 249 for 2

The hopes of the Wills XI rose and sank with their captain Vishwanath Both the openers Gaekwad and Sanjeeva Rao were soon back in the pavilion after seven overs were bowled by Sandhu and Ghavri It was under this circumstances that Vishwanath took away the initiative from the Bombay bowlers with his supple wrists Irrespective of whether Vishwanath was working the ball to third man or turning it round the corner the elegance was all there This inspired confidence in his partner Srinivasan

Vishwanath, who has shed considerable weight around his waistline this season promised to make a fight of it And like it has always happened, he was most unexpectedly caught by Shastri off Nayak for 36 inclusive of five boundaries in the fifty deliveries he faced This was in the 22nd ones, with the total on 90

Ravi Shastri spun one very sharply which had Srinivasan stranded out of the crease and Zulfiquar Parkar whipped off the bails Surinder Amarnath ran himself out recklessly, committing the cardinal error of not watching the ball while attempting the second run Unfortunately for him, the fielder was Guru Gupta, Bombay's twelfth man Mohinder in trying to place Balwinder Sandhu failed to make contact and was leg before Ravi Shastri mopped up the tail to return figures of five for thirty five Rakesh Shukla and Binny batted sensibly and had the earlier batsmen shown the same dedication and temperament the team would have scored more than the 177 that it actually did

BENGAL vs BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI

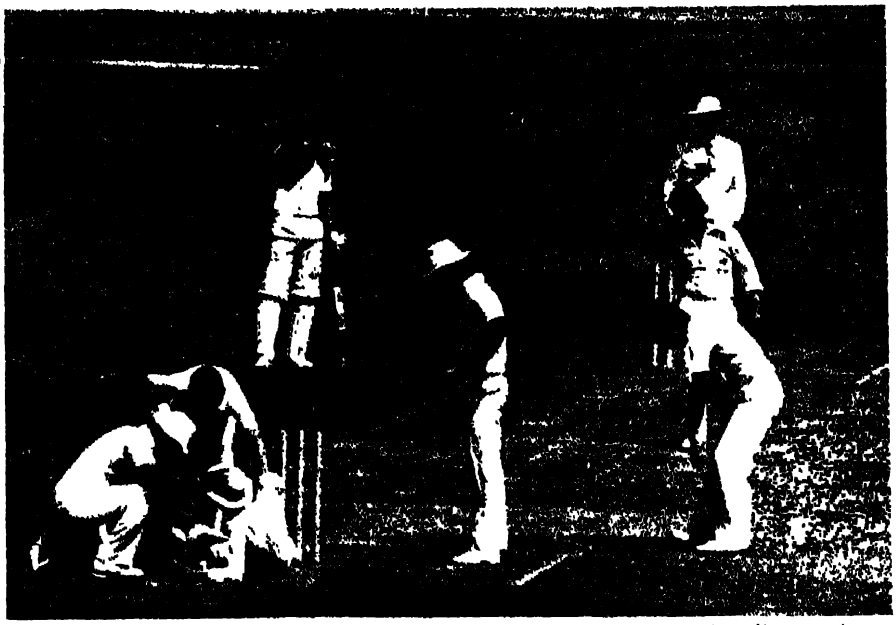
THE semi final of the Wills Trophy at Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh Stadium was a farce Bengal, who had won their quarter-final tie against Hyderabad at Nagpur on the toss of a coin, were not exactly welcome at Jaipur Local residents would have preferred to see Hyderabad in action and Bengal's "victory" affected the gates for the game

It was the quickest victory for the Board President's XI Bengal toiled for 42 2 overs to make 168 runs while their opponents took only 33 1 overs to overtake this total and clinch a victory

Bengal were handicapped by injury and illness Barun Burman the burly medium pacer who was expected to spearhead the Bengal attack on the green top at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, developed a stomach ailment and to make matters worse, Molov Banerjee the twelfth man, was injured while alighting from the bus which brought the team from the airport His injury was not serious enough but he still chose to rest in the dressing room and Bengal played with just ten men The wicket was a green top which was expected to help the pacemen Bengal skipper Dilip Doshi lost the toss and was asked to bat first

An 80 run partnership between Arun Lal who made his debut for Bengal and Raja Venkatraman was the highlight of the otherwise mediocre Bengal innings Madan Lal, the skipper of the Board President's team had problems in deploying bowlers who could unsettle these two young batsmen Lal and Venkatraman displayed good understanding and their running between the wickets was excellent In the course of their partnership, which took just 16 3 overs, Arun Lal hit 49 off 48 balls Arun's innings was effortless but graceful, but he fell to left arm spinner Deepak Chopra who found a gap between Arun's bat and pad bowling him Venkatraman's innings was more cautious and he made 33 in 62 balls

Earlier, Punjab medium-pacer Ghai who replaced an unwell T Shekhar of Tamil Nadu impressed on the lively wicket Moving and cutting the ball both ways this Jullundur collegian who played Vizzy Trophy earlier than Sunil Valson and Randhir Singh made life a misery for the Bengal openers Pronob Roy and Palash Nandy Nandy was bowled by a beauty from Shekhar who began the rout and who was later asked to mop up the Bengal innings his analysis reading an impressive 6 2 13 3 Victory for the Board side was



BENGAL VS BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI Wicketkeeper Ved Rai is felled by a bit from Deepak Chopra

the on side He played 89 balls in his 150 minute stay to score an unbeaten 65

The most heartening feature was to see Kirti Azad suddenly breaking loose obliging the barrackers with a fireworks display after his side had achieved the hundred run target Azad was particularly severe on Doshi and Palash Nandy The former was hit thrice over the fence in an over and for good measure clubbed Palash Nandy for a couple more in the following over One of the sixes off Doshi fell twenty yards outside the boundary line

Azad's last five scoring strokes were all sixes Thanks to his free scoring which earned him the Man of the Match award for the second time the Board XI raced from 100 to 170 in just 7 3 overs Incidentally, Azad bettered Sandeep Patil's record of four sixes in a Wills innings Azad remained not out with 76 off 80 balls and the Board President's side won the match

BOMBAY vs BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI

NOTWITHSTANDING the allegations that captaincy was proving to be a burden on him, that he no longer harboured the appetite for runs that he was unsuitable to the demands of the limited over games, Sunil Gavaskar played dazzling cricket giving fitting replies to all these charges. With scores of 56, 102 not out and 113 against the cream of bowling of the country Gavaskar has announced that he means business

Sensing his current mood one feels sorry for the bowlers It was his batting which, along with his leadership, helped Bombay win the Wills Trophy for the first time in the four years of its existence In the final Bombay beat President's XI by fifteen runs

The normal tendency of the captains is to put the opponents in to bat first for the simple reason that it enables you to know what your target is and consequently you can pace yourself accordingly Madan Lal, captain of the President's XI invited Bombay to have the first knock Very early in the innings Ghulam Parkar was run out due to a misunderstanding with Gavaskar Not surprisingly Vengsarkar and Gavaskar were circumspect to the bowling of Rajinder Ghai and Madan Lal Randhir Singh and Kirti Azad were in charge of bowling operations at the end of the twelfth over with the score at 43 for one With three boundaries coming in two overs, the pressure on the Bombay batsman started easing up

Gavaskar in particular was playing confidently He was middling the ball from the word go and was making shots without causing alarm At the same time Sunil made sure that no loose ball was spared If it was on the off side the ball was promptly despatched to the cover boundary and if it was on or outside the leg stump an elegant looking flick was the answer.

Meanwhile, Deepak Chopra, the left-arm spinner, replaced Kirti. Chopra bowled to a tantalising length and gave few liberties to the batsman Chopra's third over and the side's twentieth over, was a maiden. Vengsarkar batted sensibly, his knock was not a delectable one but obviously it was of immense value to the side He was out trying to drive Kirti Azad with his head in the air, giving thereby a simple catch to Yashpal Sharma at deep mid on Thirty overs had been completed and 118 runs came off them and so Gavaskar and Vengsarkar laid the foundation for a good score after the loss of an early wicket

Sandeep Patil spelt out his intentions of going for the runs from the moment he arrived at the wicket But his sense of timing seemed to have deserted him Sunil Gavaskar was moving towards his century at the other end The concentration required for a big innings was all there, except at ninety-four when Sunil flicked Randhir Singh on the leg side and 'keeper Ved Raj failed to fasten on to it A rasping cover boundary off Ghai hoisted Gavaskar's hundred, his third in the tournament and the second this year To secure this milestone Gavaskar needed one hundred and forty-two deliveries including eight hits to the

Hairstyle Tip No. 1





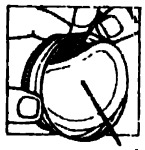
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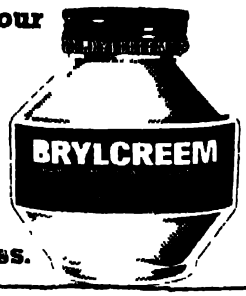


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At this stage Sunil started improvising his shots He played one particular stroke by moving outside the leg stump even before Randhir Singh had bowled the ball, to loft it to the point boundary vintage batting It reminded one of Viv Richards Gavaskar played this totally unexpected shot thrice after he crossed his hundred But coupled with the desire to accelerate the run rate as well as his exhaustion Gavaskar threw away his wicket

With a little over seven overs to go Karsan Ghavri was promoted in the batting order with the score reading 178 for 3 Sandeep had meanwhile, lifted Ghai over mid wicket for six and was dropped by Bhardwaj off Randhir Ghavri played to the left of Madan Lal stationed at mid wicket and went for a run but Patil, the non-striker did not budge from the crease Suru Navak another left hander replaced Ghavri at the wicket but did not last long being caught by Madan Lal off Randhir The crisis was tailor made for the calm and cool Ashok Mankad In trying to hit the ball into the stands over mid wicket Patil was bowled by a short ball from Randhir

With just twenty six balls to come Bombay, at 192 for 6 seemed to have relaxed their hold on the match But Mankad and Ravi Shastri played adventurous cricket and managed to score 33 runs within that time Shastri seemed to have taken a leaf out of his captain's innings when he also moved outside the leg stump even before the ball was bowled to hit it to the far corners of the field Mankad was out off the last ball of the innings for 16 Shastri remained unbeaten with 20 when the Bombay total reached 225 for 7 Madan Lal had 1 for 42 while Ghai had 1 for 52

The President's XI had advanced to the finals by trouncing weaker opposition But all the same it did have among its ranks stroke players capable of getting the runs As for the Bombay bowlers they had a decent target to bowl with

The innings was in its eighth over and the President's XI were 15 for 3 The wind had been literally knocked



THE FINAL BOMBAY VS BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI Sunil Gavaskar ensures that he is in the crease after Ghavri gave away the bat which chased wicketkeeper Vijay Jha to

out of their sails Raman Lamba and Bhardwaj were out in identical fashion caught behind off the bowling of Balwinder Sandhu and Ghavri respectively Sandhu rapped Srikkanth on the pads and appealed The ball trickled to short mid off and the batsman went for a run Sandhu ran forward picked up the ball and hit the wicket to beat Kirti Azad Srikkanth was dropped twice the first time by Ashok Mankad off Ghavri and next by Dilip Vengsarkar and the bowler to suffer was Sandhu

Balwinder gave away just three runs in six overs of which three consecutive overs were maidens Said Sandhu, "Today I was concentrating on the off stump only The rhythm was all there One always bowls his best in a big match"

Suru Navak who replaced Ghavri came in for some harsh treatment at the hands of Srikkanth Navak gave 19 runs in two overs In the beginning Yashpal was not executing strokes properly He needed 20 deliveries to get off the mark But it was obvious that the President's XI were up against it because the middle order was exposed to the bowling

Ravi Shastri bowled as well as he did in the previous two matches Srikkanth tried to break away from the shackles imposed by Shastri only to be clean bowled in the 21st over for 42 which included five fours Brijesh Patel joined Yashpal



THE FINAL BOMBAY VS BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI Yashpal sweeps one of Ravi Shastri's deliveries to the boundary

A lot depended on Brijesh if the President's XI were to make a match of it But the Karnataka batsman tried to lift Suru Navak out of the ground when his score was eight and was caught by Guru Gupte, the substitute for Sandhu on the mid wicket fence The hundred of the innings came in 30 overs and, with Yashpal playing freely now and Madan Lal lending support, it promised to be an exciting match Shastri had 1 for 29 off 10 overs

With Navak giving away as many as 41 runs in six overs, Gavaskar brought on Eknath Solkar Meanwhile Yashpal had really opened out His fifty came in 92 balls

At this stage, luck smiled on Bombay when Madan Lal had a lapse of concentration and played the same shot as Brijesh's, but Ghulam Parkar made no mistake in taking the catch "From where I was standing it was to my left and behind me The ball had achieved considerable height and in its downward trajectory was shaking"

With Madan Lal gone in the 38th over it was 138 for 6 It looked as if all were over

But Deepak Chopra had different ideas The diminutive Chopra gave valiant support to Yashpal and their running between the wickets was of a high order Yashpal hit two sixes over square leg effortlessly, one off Patil and the other off Sandhu Yashpal had carried the fight into the enemy camp and as long as he was there victory was always remotely possible however small that chance may have been

In the 46th over Yashpal's heroic innings came to an end when he played on to the wicket in trying to hit Ghavri to mid wicket for a well made 81 Vedrai and Chopra carried on the good work but the run rate was nine per over But the two players went about it seriously even though Gavaskar had all nine fielders on the fence And may be the ball never always went where it was intended but Chopra and Vedrai kept the match alive Vedrai was bowled by Patil in the penultimate over and Bombay were truly home Sandeep had 1 for 30 in 10 overs, while Ghavri had 2 for 41 and the lion hearted Sandhu had President's XI finished at 210 for 8, with Chopra remaining unbeaten with 19 and Ghai not out at 2

Profile

Hard toil up a steep hill

RAJU MUKHERJEE profiles BARUN BURMAN, the ambitious and talented Bengal cricketer

A STEAMY morning it was at Ahmedabad way back in 1976. The lithe figure of Barun Burman gathered momentum as it approached the delivery stride and then a sudden flash of lightning sent the off stump cartwheeling to the wicket keeper. A magnificent delivery indeed. Just that slight deviation off the seam to which Sunil Gavaskar's almost impregnable defence had no answer. West Zone were in trouble. And when Dilip Vengsarkar fended off a Barun flier to be caught by the deep fine leg running in, the young pace bowler from East Zone must surely have impressed the national selectors.

Only the week before, Gavaskar's groping blade had nicked a catch to short leg off Burman in the Irani Cup tie. In that match Burman bowled like a champion ending up with an analysis of 4 for 71, which was statistically superior to the other pacemen on view. Barun in those days relied on pace. And by Indian standards he was along with Kapil Dev the quickest. But in this match it was not only his pace that thrilled the spectators. The Press and the purists were in raptures over his line and length, his controlled away-swinger and in-cutter, his judicious use of the bumper. But, unfortunately it was not enough to re-establish himself.

I am racing ahead of the story of the Burman rise, fall and a great effort to redeem himself all over again. 1973 was the year when a young man of 18, rather simple and gawky, put on the Bengal cap for the first time. He had come up with a lot of wickets at the school level and a reputation of having put many a promising bat in the safety of a hospital bed. He was what one would call rather "raw". But there was no mistaking his potential. Those days he was a better bowler with a slightly oldish ball as he did not move the ball much in the air. But nevertheless his generous peppering of bumpers paid rich dividends.

Next year he was in the Duleep Trophy team against North Zone at Calcutta. He bowled his heart out on an unresponsive wicket. Without doubt the national selectors were putting down his name in their notebooks. And 1975 was the year when Barun Burman got his major break. He was in the Indian team against the visiting Sri Lanka side in the Nagpur unofficial Test. But here destiny thwarted his meteoric rise. After bowling only five overs Barun hobbled out of the match with a torn ligament. Undoubtedly this was a great setback for a young man with a promising career to look forward to.

However the hard trier that he is, he did not give up hope and concentrated on every aspect of the game. Almost overnight his batting impressed and with growing maturity his length and line developed without any apparent loss of pace. Next season he was ready once again to stake his claim at the highest level. His magnificent bowling in the Duleep and Irani Trophies has already been mentioned. Now he awaited the arrival of the MCC. At Gauhati, Barun bowled a very tidy spell getting two wickets in each innings at a very economical rate. This was the season when he notched up his first Ranji Trophy century. He scored runs to be precise. From 1976 he could rightly be considered an all-rounder.

But, unfortunately, Barun did not receive encouragement from the right quarters. His interest might have waned slightly because his form slackened. He attended the camp at Madras in 1977 for players aspiring to go with the Indian team to Australia. Then again the next year he was invited to the Bangalore camp in preparation for the Pakistan tour of 1978-79. Hard work he did not shirk. Performances he had. But still something kept him out of the Test team.

In 1977 Barun went to England to play a season of club cricket in the northern league. However, in 1978, the Bengal fast medium bowler was once again called to participate in the Irani Trophy. Here again a broken thumb in trying to stop a hard return was all he could show for his trouble. Disappointed and dejected, Barun had probably his worst season in Ranji Trophy in 1978-79.

Next year, however, he came back with a bang, as it were. He bowled long spells with rich rewards. He fielded brilliantly and batted with style and purpose. In the quarter-finals against Delhi his fiery bowling—he uprooted the stumps of Surinder Amarnath through sheer pace—matched his cavalier batting when he thrashed Bishan Bedi, Madanlal and company in a matter of minutes in a desperate bid to win the match for Bengal. Ultimately, however, his lion-hearted efforts proved to be in vain as Bengal lost by the narrow margin of 50 odd runs.

In 1980, another season of club cricket in England helped his allround ability to prosper. In domestic cricket he notched up another century, this time against Orissa.

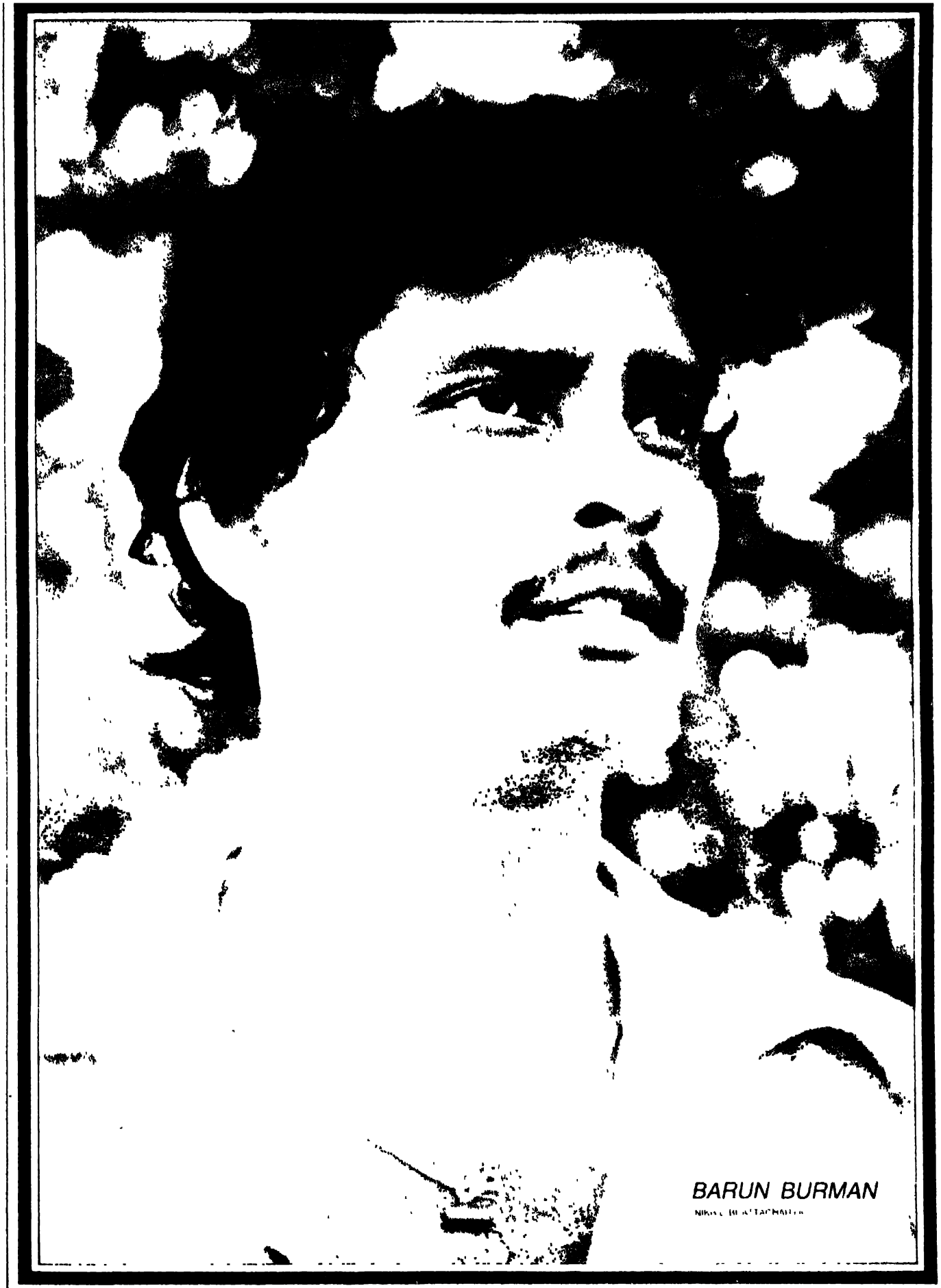
In the Duleep Trophy, Barun had the most satisfying season so far. He almost single-handedly helped East Zone to defeat North Zone at Delhi with figures of 5 for 115. Then again, at Calcutta, in the finals against West Zone his magnificent spell earned him 6 wickets for 88 runs.

In cold statistics Burman has taken 86 wickets in Ranji Trophy, 22 in Duleep Trophy and another 27 in other important fixtures. Along with two centuries, he has scored more than 600 runs in Ranji Trophy.

Today he should, by the weight of his performance and his acclaimed potential, prove his merit at the highest level if destiny at last smiles on him.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



BARUN BURMAN

Focus

The Illy-Boycott row

ARIJIT SEN

It was only the fear of having to lose a lot of money that prevented the Yorkshire cricket authorities from sacking either former England captain and now Yorkshire manager Ray Illingworth or current England opener Geoffrey Boycott. The mutual animosity between these two players has had its effect on Yorkshire's continuing lack of success in all domestic competitions and has considerably weakened the morale of the team as a whole.

More than that, it has lowered the image of the country as a whole as these two have continuously washed their dirty linen in public. In a set up where eligibility rules are the strictest in England—only local borns are allowed to play for the country—extremes seem to be accepted as normal. But this refusal to change with the times has had an effect on performance. Although Yorkshire have won the County championship 31 times—a record in England—the last victory was 13 years ago.

The claustrophobic atmosphere has also resulted in almost regular controversies. Hassles between the management on one side and captain and players on the other, have formed a recurring feature. Ray Illingworth himself had to leave Yorkshire back in 1968 the last time the County headed the league table—over a dispute arising out of his contract with the County authorities. Another former England stalwart, Brian Close, was ousted in 1970.

The following year Boycott became captain. From the very beginning, he was unable to establish a rapport with other members of the team. But even as a section of the Yorkshire cricket committee started a move to relegate Boycott to the status of a player, the Yorkshire Members' Reform Group came into being.

This was in 1977. In 1978, Boycott was stripped of captaincy. A special meeting was convened by the reform group and 700 members passed a no confidence motion against the cricket committee. But they lost out on a vote to restore Boycott to his captaincy by the heavy postal ballot—from members traditionally forming a bastion of conservation.

The man who took over was none other than John Hampshire who was himself castigated by the authorities for not trying to get a batting bonus point in 1978 - which could have helped get Yorkshire the championship.

The reform group felt that Illingworth had a hand in Boycott's removal, because he had become unofficial adviser to the cricket committee long before he was appointed manager—before the 1979 season—on a fee said to be about £15,000 per annum for three years.

The Boycott-Illingworth clash began on an England tour when the latter was captain. Not being able to do anything then, "Illy" is reported to have pounced on the opportunity presented in his new capacity as manager of the Yorkshire team. Although John Hampshire made an ignominous exit, there was no question of bringing Boycott back as a captain. Chris Old was given the prestigious mantle, while Richard Lumb was made vice-captain. But the latter resigned in the 1981 season. This forced the committee to appoint Neil Hartley—who had not even been capped then— to lead the side when Old was unavailable!

Naturally, there was resentment among both players and supporters.

Meanwhile, Illingworth stepped up his action against Boycott by excluding him from several Sunday League and Fenner Trophy games. But most serious was the omission of the opening bat from Yorkshire's match against Barbados at Scarborough.

Having just been selected to play for England against India in winter, Boycott felt humiliated and went on television to air his grievances, saying he was "determined to sort things out", although he would wait till the season was over for the confrontation.

The net result was that, the very next day when Boycott was putting on his kit for another Yorkshire match, this time a County game against Northants, Illingworth entered the dressing room and told Boycott "Please leave this room immediately." A red-faced Boycott emerged from the shade and was soon surrounded by reform group men. Immediately after they heard the story, they shouted slogans against Illingworth and threatened disruption of the match.

Finally, on September 17, three meetings were held to sort out the dispute. First, reform group representatives met Michael Crantord and Joe Lister, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the cricket committee to demand Illingworth's dismissal. Then, the management committee sat with Boycott and Illingworth to hear their views. Finally, a special meeting of the general committee was convened.

The net result was that both Boycott and Illingworth were asked to stay on. The suspension order on Boycott, served by Illingworth the day Yorkshire started their match against Northants, was lifted. In this manner, the committee hoped to patch up the differences.

But the almost open hostility is so deep-rooted that it is unlikely to help heal any wounds. The committee tried to get a back door verdict in favour of Illingworth through a secret poll among players. It was revealed that, barring two, no one wanted Boycott either as captain or as a player in the team. This was done after the day of high drama, in an obvious bid to offset the inroads made by the reform group.

But the end of this turmoil is not yet in sight. Each side is now busy licking its wounds. But it is not inconceivable that the reform group will some months from now, re-start its campaign against Illingworth by requisitioning a special meeting to discuss the dismissal resolution. All it needs are the signatures of 2.5 per cent of the total membership, which means just 350. They had already secured this when the cricket committee agreed to meet both sides to defuse the situation.

Official spokesmen have never openly said so, but it is generally felt that Boycott himself guides the reform group. If that is so, there is little likelihood of the Yorkshire muddle ending in the near future.

Boycott and Illingworth in happier times



Scrapbook

The men who fight for England

This week, we begin a series of profiles by ASHIS RAY of the England cricketers to tour India this winter

Bob Willis

ELEVEN winters ago, when England were touring Australia under Ray Illingworth, Robert George Dylan Willis, then of Surrey, was flown out to replace the injured Alan Ward. It was a chance the selectors took, for the gangling fast bowler had mighty little first class experience behind him. But the move paid off and today, after 63 Tests and a bag of 227 wickets, the Warwickshire captain embarks on the tour of India as England's principal fast bowling weapon as well as the team's vice captain.

Earlier this year he returned from the West Indies for a knee operation, which, many thought, was the end of the road for the lion-hearted man.

Indeed, the general reaction in England, when he cut short his visit, was "Finished", "Good luck mate" "Do not stick around the County slog for too long".

But 1981 was Willis' benefit year, and he had no intentions of being seen around on crutches. After a successful operation at the hands of the doctor who had treated Kapil Dev last year, he was back in business. Recalled to the Test side, he thundered in with all his old fire and fury at Headingley to take 8 for 43 and demolish Australia after Ian Botham had laid the foundation with a glorious, unbeaten hundred. It was his career best haul, achieved at a time when the pressure was really on – Kim Hughes' team needing only 130 odd to win.

Willis thinks Tony Greig helped him considerably in his development. "He (Greig) seemed to understand that a fast bowler needs a boost to his ego and kept telling me how important I was to England, and so on. That was shrewd psychology, and I went from strength to strength under his captaincy", he says in a recent book.

In Australia in 1978-79, for example, he had his opponents scurrying for protective gear from head to toe, and combined with Botham in the spell under Mike Brearley to notch up many a victory for England.

Willis is well over six foot tall, with long, fuzzy hair. He is taciturn but intelligent and given to rather daring remarks in public. Eighteen months ago when the question of substituting Brearley first cropped up, and when most people were canvassing for Botham, he was quite candid about his views and felt Keith Fletcher was the best man for the job.

After England lost the first Test to Australia in the recent series, he commented in a radio interview, "I do not think Ian (Botham) should be captain simply because I am convinced his form has suffered dramatically since taking the captaincy on his shoulders". He clarified "I am not looking to take over the job for myself. I would have liked to have seen someone like Keith Fletcher given the job in this series and the Indian tour". The Test and County Cricket Board disciplined him for his utterances, but Alec Bedser and company have ultimately bowed to his opinion.

So, clearly, Willis' role vis-a-vis Fletcher will be that of a very trusted lieutenant as well as a rather important member of the "think tank". His record as Warwickshire's skipper, especially in one day cricket is quite impressive. Moreover, he is well accustomed to being vice-captain of England, having served this post for the past three years.

But even his best friends will be keeping their fingers crossed about his fitness during six Test matches on varying surfaces. Some of them quite hard and which will cause anxiety for an injury prone fast bowler at 32 and that too, after an exacting summer. However, the man himself has no doubts and on the contrary is "Looking forward to the challenge". An indestructible spirit – and that is what the man is all about.

Paul Allott

THE biggest surprise – as far as England was concerned – in the fifth Test of the recently-concluded series against Australia was the inclusion of newcomer Paul Allott in the squad. Indeed, the newcomer soon made his presence felt in no uncertain terms. In England's first knock, with his side in desperate need of runs, the bespectacled fast bowler scored 52, a score that went beyond the wildest expectations of even the most ardent England supporter, thereby steering his side to the respectable total of 231.

He then went on to take the first Australian wicket, that of Graeme Wood, with only 20 runs on the board for the visitors. There were three more wickets for him in the Test and though he was rested for the sixth and final Test, it was patently clear that he had more than a fair chance of making the touring party to India.

In all, then, a good season for Allott although this article would not be complete without mention being made of an incident that took place in his debut Test. During the bomb scare at Old Trafford he was sent by skipper Brearley to field down at fine leg and displayed a little less than his usual enthusiasm. Geoff Boycott realising the reason for his nervousness called out "Don't worry, if I find your spectacles, I'll send them back to your mother".

As Alec Bedser remarked after including Allott in the side for the fifth Test, "I have followed the boy up and down the country, and I have been very impressed with what I have seen".

His assessment – or was it a hunch – proved to be correct for moving the ball with admirable control, Allott emerged covered with a generous amount of glory.

Allott, in fact, completed the season with almost 90 wickets, the highest for Lancashire and one of the topmost tallies for the summer.

Exceedingly tall – six foot four inch, this Cheshire born cricketer gives the impression of being the scholarly type, playing the game in the laudable amateur vein. This is probably the case, but he demonstrates a natural ability to move the ball both in the air and off the wicket coupled with an effective bounce. He can also bowl tidily for long periods.

His County captain, Clive Lloyd, says of him "he is unquestionably the find of the season for us". Indeed, the same can be said of him in the English context. It may be true that fast bowlers come on the Test scene relatively more rapidly. But the fact that Allott has justified the initial faith placed in him at a time when England were desperately searching for fresh talent is a source of major satisfaction to all supporters of English cricket.

But the real objective of taking the Lancastrian to India is to groom him for the future.

Of course, this does not mean that he will be totally overlooked for the Tests. But the chances are that his break will come, if it comes, towards the latter part of the series. In all likelihood he will be fighting for the third seamer's berth – a summing up that Willis and Botham are sureties with Dilley and John Lever.

Though nippy, Allott is still strictly speaking a medium pacer – at best fast medium. But there is every possibility of his increasing his speed as time passes, which will probably make him even more penetrative than he is at present.





Sportsworld

PAUL ALLOTT

The I.F.A. blunders on regardless

The attitudes of our selectors lack a rational and scientific approach to the problem. ALBERT FERNANDO, the noted coach, emphasises the necessity of well-planned preparations for the forthcoming Asiad, putting forward his own suggestions

WITH the conclusion of the Merdeka Football tournament, it is useful for all those concerned with the game to take a look at the present system of selection, preparation and orientation of the national team in international competitions This is all the more important with the Asiad just a year away, so that the pace of preparation on the right track can be systematically accelerated to reach the required international standard

At the very outset, one cannot but be gratified at the thought of India having reached the semi-final stage of the Merdeka tournament and that too without the best players available in the country That such a poor and inexperienced side was picked up is partly the result of our attitudes towards team selections and preparations which are not well-planned and scientific A number of talented players who could withstand the rigours of high class competition were left out and comparatively newcomers included who have now been replaced for the following competition

The ideal time for one to have gauged the basic capacity needed for an international competition was when the last Federation Cup football tournament took place in Madras And with the home commitments like the Calcutta League normally taking precedence over national preparation, it would have been easy for the trainers to assemble only those who were competent enough to satisfy the requirements of international competitions But what one saw instead was a host of coaching camps in which all sorts of players were involved and in the process the very best and the mediocre were herded together to form a national squad to reach higher standards within a shorter period of time Take for example the case of Subrata, the towering deep defender, who now has been called for national duty after we have lost the semi-final in Kuala Lumpur In the same vein, the experienced Ulaganathan is now called upon to attend the fourth camp to be held hereafter and that too in the company of some whose names were not even heard during the last Federation Cup competition

One cannot understand the reasoning behind this sort of selection; rather one wonders as to whether a clear cut policy has ever been drawn up so that a national trainer or a group of trainers, according to the present trend in India, can assemble a national squad for preparation within a short period. If this is not done then the calling upon of numerous selectors and coaches during important national tournaments will have no tangible results

Coming back to Merdeka, India can certainly take a leaf out of Iraq's book With a population of about 12,000,000 it has done extremely well to come up the ladder, while its Football Association was formed only in the year 1948 and was affiliated to FIFA in 1951 It subsequently joined the AFC in 1971 It has 52 clubs taking part in championships or other competition by the 1978 count, while there are 22 youth teams. The total number of registered amateur footballers are only 1100 in number while there are 600 youth players in the country. There are about 65 other clubs that do not take part in any organised competition in the official sense On the other hand, in India the number of clubs affiliated in the general category are 1386 with another 563 youth teams. It has a total of 37,752 registered players in the general category with another 15,358 in the youth section We were founded way back in 1937 but were affiliated to FIFA in 1948 We joined the AFC in 1954 In addition, we have two Asian Championships to our credit: once, in the inaugural year of the Asian Games in Delhi in 1951 and thereafter in 1962 at Djakarta. What is more, in Asia itself, we will highlight in due course the phenomenal rise of other teams, whom we left behind in the initial stages With things as they are, one cannot but ponder over the attitude of our football hierarchy

With the restrictions placed on us by the continuous domestic tournaments almost throughout the year, our top players have hardly any time for much-needed rest or for attending long term coaching camps in view of the selection of the national team This year alone we had three coaching camps which clashed with the major domestic tournaments But the fact remains that a fully composed national squad never remained together for a fairly long period. In that case, if this is going to be the regular pattern, then we have to adopt an entirely different



TARAPADA BANERJEE

P K Banerjee is explaining something to the young players selected for the camp

approach to selecting team, which is the need of the hour

It is true that top European players also remain busy throughout the year But then they are involved in highly competitive national and international club competitions Hence, to integrate these players successfully into a national squad becomes easier in a shorter period of time The players of top European National teams generally come from two or three clubs Let us take for instance the 1974 World Cup final Six of West Germany's players belonged to Bayern Munich Club, while its versatile opponent Netherland had six players from Ajax Netherland fielded almost the same team in the 1978 series in Argentina and reached the final In the same tournament, Italy had ten of its players from Juventus and six from Turin Through the bold efforts of coach Bearzot, who broke away from the stranglehold of the Italian Catanaccio style of play, Italy put up a wonderful performance almost making it to the final Way back in 1950, Uruguay won the World Cup in Brazil with players mainly from Panerol and Nacional The only country in South America that takes a longer time in preparation of a national team, irrespective of domestic competitions, is Brazil It was so in the case of Argentina -under coach Menotti—which for the first time prepared a team on a long-term plan lasting nearly four years and won the last World Cup on its own soil

When the players are hard pressed for time due to domestic commitments, the art of selection of the national team from two or three clubs, which consistently do well in domestic competitions, has its well-founded advantages. Players of these clubs for one are continuously exposed to strong opposition which sharpens their play and enlarges their experience both tactically and psychologically The continuous association of players in real game situations helps build up excellent understanding among the players This also enables them to play rigorously for a prolonged period of time Their combined experience and knowledge forms the basic structure of a successfully well co-ordinated team

The common norms of selecting a national team are, first that a method of trial is employed to contemplate the final eleven and that the pattern of play, to be adopted in the tournament, is also determined The other criterion involves long and short term plans to specify a style of play This, of course, is based on conscious planning in preparing young players so that they can take the place of older players when the need arises But India still seems to be engrossed in the first method, the result of which has in many ways caused our downfall How long are we to put up with this trial and error method? This is the question we would like to ask our national coaches who have been entrusted with the preparation of the national teams for several years.



P K Banerjee seen coaching players at the Salt Lake coaching camp for the 1982 Asian Games

From 1972 onwards Mr Basha and Mr P K Banerjee have been together looking after the destinies of our national squad since the pre-Olympic tournament in Rangoon, where I myself was a witness to the Indian team's progress And now what do we hear, as reported in the dailies, in an interview with Mr Banerjee? According to Mr Banerjee, our team lacks individual and collective qualities that go to make a really strong national side Was it something that he discovered only in Kuala Lumpur after ten long years of national training and participation in international competitions?

All these camps are actually wasting money since they are not founded on well planned schemes Why? It is simply because the Asiad is not a Merdeka, or a King's Cup in Thailand, nor is it the Pres dent's Cup in Korea which the Asian countries use to build up their national reserve In other words, most countries treat them as training camps and send experimental teams to their own benefits at the cost of the host This was the reason why Malaysia offered cash prizes this time so that countries would send their truly national sides However, the Asiad is the mini World Cup football in Asia and one cannot afford to treat it the way one does in relation to our going to the Merdeka or for that matter to the Middle East

Our best players in a given position are widely known An ordinary layman on the street will name them for you Yet, is it difficult for us to assemble three players each for a given position in order of merit and work on them on a set plan and programme that would enable India to perform creditably in the impending Asian Games? These can be entrusted to two expert coaches while a stand by of promising young players from among those who had toured abroad to participate in the youth competitions can be entrusted to two other coaches who can best spend their energy in preparing these youngsters so that they can take the place of their elders as and when required

Finally, the idea of holding an international tournament in India prior to the Asiad is, indeed a sound proposition But the important question is when the tournament will be held The ideal time for this would be the very month and dates on which the Asiad would be held next year This would enable the players and team officials to gain experience regarding the climatic conditions prevailing at that time Sports medicine experts should also get involved in this process of preparation So, from now onwards, we should have at least two experienced men all the time with the team both for foreign tours as well as for local international competitions instead of four coaches as we have today Let us not deceive ourself but be bold enough to face facts



Indian players at a workout: but how well planned is the coaching?

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

LOKOPRIYA BORDOLOI TROPHY

Assam police unstoppable

ASSAM POLICE XI won this year's All India Bordoloi Trophy—held yearly by the Gauhati Sports Association—when they defeated Goa's Dempo Sports Club by two goals to nil

This year there were 32 teams participating in the tournament George Telegraph and Kidderpore were the only Calcutta first division clubs that competed The principal teams that could not find berths in the quarter final (played on a league basis) were Border Security Force (BSF) of Jullundur, Assam Rifles and Oil India The Bhutanese team Thimpu XI, defeated BSF, who were without their star forward Narendra Gurung and others Oil India also felt the absence of their major players—Amal Phukan and Arun Barthakur

Assam Police XI, Kidderpore and George Telegraph were placed in one group while Dempo Sports club, Thimpu XI and Shillong XI of Meghalaya were segregated in another in the quarter final league matches The teams which qualified for the semi-finals were Assam Police, Kidderpore, Dempo Sports and Thimpu XI

The first encounter in the double leg semi final between Assam Police and Thimpu XI ended blank In the second match, Assam Police defeated Thimpu XI, applying tough tackling and long passing The limitations of the short statured Bhutanese in the air were clearly exposed One interesting feature of the match was that the Assam Police custodian, Khaklari, almost repeated the feat previously performed by Pet Jennings, the Northern Ireland goalkeeper Jennings, while playing for Spurs, was credited with having scored a unique goal when he kicked the ball past the opposing goalkeeper In the same fashion, the Assam Police custodian kicked the ball which landed in the penalty area of the opponent, but was saved by the Thimpu custodian

The first encounter in the second semi-final between Dempo and Kidderpore also ended in a goalless draw In the second match Kidderpore were beaten by Dempo 3-4 in the tie-breaker

The early exit of popular teams like Assam Rifles, Oil India, BSF and George Telegraph from the tournament took away a lot of appeal and attraction But magnificent football by the Thimpu XI relieved the organisers of a financial crisis, a scare of which loomed large till then Dempo Sports Club, on the other hand, were the favourites to win the trophy and the manner in which they vanquished the over-rated Thimpu XI was simply unbelievable That was possibly the last time Dempo Sports played organised football in this tournament Their subsequent matches were devoid of any planning

The final was played on 27 September before a huge crowd of about 30,000 people Thousands of spectators had to leave the ground disappointed for want of a ticket, focussing once again on the need to build a bigger and full-fledged football stadium in this football crazy town of India

Assam Police, adopting a 4 2 4 system, played a fast game with supports from vast crowds Dempo on the other hand, could never rise above mediocrity Gilberton Sangma scored the first goal by placing a tap from Brojen Brahma on the right of the goalkeeper The second goal was scored when Bhuyan's shot was deflected off the body of one of the defenders to enter the Dempo goal Both teams, however played clean football

Dempo's frequent counter attacks proved abortive as they failed to spread out the clustered Police defence Playing 4-3-3 against 4 2-4, Dempo crowded their opponent's goal mouth, hoping to score through a melee, but their short and insipid passing found no answer to the determined defence of the opposition In a nutshell, they failed to penetrate the defence to create openings

Amongst the noted players, Fernandes and Nicholas Pereira of Dempo and Gilberton Sangma of Assam Police completely failed to impress, although the latter scored a beautiful goal in the final Fakhruddin Laskar of Assam Police, Phulmun of Shillong XI, Uttam Chakravarty of Kidderpore and Petric Rai, Urgen Lama and Abhoy Gurung of Thimpu XI put up good performances

All the teams in the tournament placed great stress on defence, thus failing to make very few concerted moves In the finals, Assam Police, in the last 20 minutes of play, resorted to absolute defence with nine of their players crowding their goalmouth.

Prahlad Khaklari, Eugenio Cardoz, Keshab Pradhan and Kabui Tenzing Kheriap were the custodians who were impressive In defence, Ananta Rai and Mintoo Basumatari of Assam Police, all the four backs of Dempo viz Rodriques, Pereira, Lotikar and Daniel (adjudged the best player), Dilip Sarkar of George Telegraph, Harbhajan Singh of BSF, and Priya Phookun of Assam Rifles impressed the spectators

Machado Phulmun, Petric Rai, Tapan Ghosh and Laskar were the linkmen of whom we can expect more in the future

A gradual decline in standards of the local Assam teams, save the Assam Police team, has caused murmurs amongst the fans and pundits alike Their attention is now diverted to the North eastern States football tournament to be held in Shillong from 28 October this year



The players of the victorious Assam Police XI who won the Bordoloi Trophy this year

SATTYANARAYAN TRIPATHI
Assam

BRIGADE OF GURKHAS GOLD CUP

An absolute thriller

SARAJIT DEB reports from Darjeeling

IN one of the most dramatic finals in recent years East Bengal annexed the glittering seventh All India Brigade of Gurkhas Gold Cup defeating arch-rivals Mohun Bagan 3-2. The winners, who were trailing by two goals till the 30th minute of the second half scored all their three goals in a span of 10 minutes and thus salvaged some pride after a disastrous start to the season. For Mohun Bagan, who have won the trophy in all their previous appearances, 1975, 1976 (jointly with East Bengal) and 1979, this was their first defeat in Darjeeling and also the first of the current season.

East Bengal, without doubt, were the better side. They completely dominated the first half but could not score because their forwards fumbled when it came to shooting at goal. Either they took wayward shots or feeble ones which the Mohun Bagan custodian Pratap Ghosh had no difficulty in collecting. Mohun Bagan began with a new vigour after the interval and in the very fifth minute forged ahead. Arup Das sent a centre from the left flank. Stopper Sankar Saha missed the flight of the ball and the ever-agile Shyam Thapa was there to half-volley diagonally in from close. Mohun Bagan kept up the pressure and in the 19th minute got their second goal.

A high lob by Gautam Sarkar from the midfield area travelled over the entire East Bengal side. Francis De Souza went for the ball and was closely followed by Thomas Mathews, who, sensing the danger, tried to put the ball away for a corner. But the ball to his astonishment entered the net. After the goal Francis De Souza missed two golden chances of further consolidating his team's position when he shot over from close on both occasions. After that it was again East Bengal all the way. First C. D. Francis shot in from a melee, then Jamshid Nasurr headed in with the back of his head from a Somenath Banerjee (who had replaced Subir Sarkar) centre, to restore parity. And then in one following minute, Somenath himself nodded in the winner from a C. D. Francis centre. All in an electrifying span in 10 minutes, which left the Darjeeling crowd spellbound.

For East Bengal, two players shone: stopper Sudhir Karmakar and linkman Fareed. The veteran stopper believed in first time clearances, which proved to be the best strategy on the small ground. Fareed was a tireless worker, moving up and down to help the forwards and the defence. Dilip Palit, who along with Majid Baskar had taken charge of the team after coach Santo Mitra had left, said after the match: "We deserved our victory. We should have got the lead in the first half itself, but we failed to utilise our chances when they came. The substitutions we made, bringing in Somenath and Moti Singh (for Joseph Machado) proved fruitful and with this victory we have proved we are not a spent force and are capable of fighting back."

From the Mohun Bagan ranks Pradip Choudhury, the captain of the side, played well in defence. Samar Bhattacharya, the other stopper, played consistently throughout the match but he missed just two headers and those were converted into goals. In the forward line DeSouza and Shyam looked the most dangerous. Coach Sankar Banerjee said: "We are playing for the third consecutive day and the strain of the 90 minute matches was evident in my defenders, especially in the second half. In addition most of my players were away doing national duty. But we still played and very nearly won the trophy."

East Bengal made two changes in the team that had figured in the quarter final, Sudhir Karmakar (in place of Dilip Palit) and custodian Biswajit Das replacing Gopabandhu Sahoo. The inclusion of Sudhir lent solidarity to the defence, but the forwards failed to create openings. On the other hand, their opponents, North Bengal Gorkha Sub Area, relied on their set game pattern going for man-to-man covering and were partly successful in their tactics. They created a few openings, but ill directed shots from their forwards hardly posed any problems for Biswajit.

East Bengal replaced Somenath and brought in Subir Sarkar but this made no difference. Just when the only result one could think of was a draw, the game livened up. Fareed ran down the middle and passed the ball to Majid, who in turn passed to Moti Singh. From there it went to Subir, who shot home with the open goal in front of him. Two minutes later, Fareed again passed to Jamshid and the latter gave it to Majid whose shot hit the post and went in. Though Fareed was the most impressive, he did not seemed to share much of an understanding with the other linkman Machado. The forwards failed to function properly, mainly because they relied too heavily on Majid, who was



East Bengal players with the glittering Gold Cup

not in his elements.

The other semi-final was between the 1979 finalists, Mohun Bagan and Border Security Force. The game was played at a fast pace and both teams tried their best to gain territorial supremacy. BSF, the holders, controlled the proceedings in the initial period and had a chance in only the third minute when Avani Gope shot straight into goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh's hands, off a pass from Nand Kishore

Slowly Mohun Bagan took control of the proceedings, getting their first goal midway through the first half A high lob by Satyajit Mitra from the midfield was chested down by Biswajit Bhattacharya The BSF custodian, Charanjit Singh, fumbled as the ball crawled in In the closing stages of the first half Mohun Bagan scored their second goal Francis DeSouza got the ball on the right flank and cut in through the entire defence He took a tremendous shot which slipped from the goalkeeper's grasp and Shyam Thapa was on the spot to place the ball in

Both teams fought hard and it was a tough match The BSF forwards relied too much on their star player, Narendra Gurung, to provide the Midas touch, but he was well marked by the Mohun Bagan defenders In the midfield the Bagan duo of Gautam Sarkar and Sujas Bera worked hard, feeding their forwards well The spirit that had been lacking in the Mohun Bagan team in their quarter final match, seemed to be back, mainly due to the presence of Gautam

WITHOUT doubt, the best quarter-final encounter was the one between Mohun Bagan and Aryan, which the former won by the odd goals in three. Mohun Bagan had started on a very lethargic note and at one point it looked as if they wanted to lose the match and return home as quick as possible But they suddenly woke up from their slumber and not only erased their deficit but also forged ahead They missed an absolute sitter in the very second minute when Francis DeSouza bungled with only the goalkeeper to beat

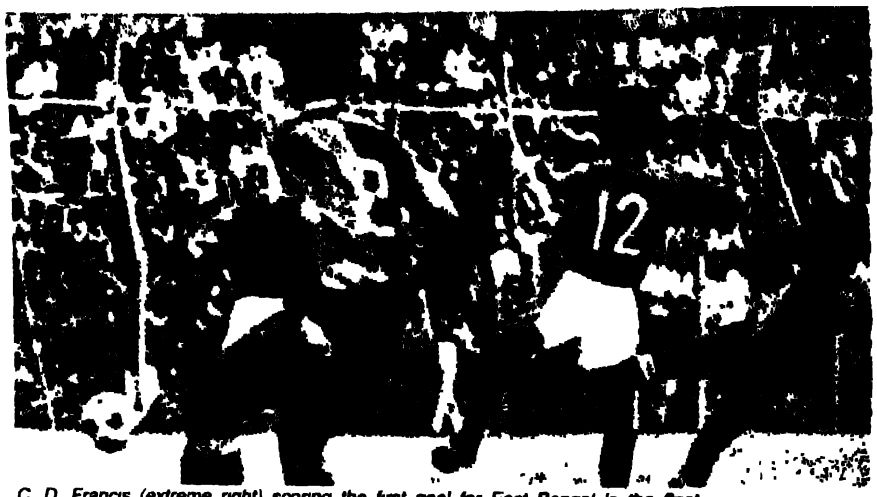
After that Aryan took control of the proceedings and forged ahead through Subhashis Dutta Aryan continued to enjoy territorial supremacy but could not convert this into goals Then midway through the second half there was a transformation in the Mohun Bagan side, with the sick Samar Bhattacharya replacing Surajit Sengupta Shyam Thapa, who was playing as a stopper, moved over to his original position as a striker and out of the blue produced his magic touch Arup Das executed a centre from the right which was headed by Deepak Banerjee (replacing Md Habib) and Shyam, preferring not to let the ball drop, executed a back volley, which hit the roof of the net, an absolute gem of a goal Shyam also scored the second goal after some time and though Aryan fought hard it was Shyam who changed the whole complexion of the match by virtue of the two goals

East Bengal had a tough quarter-final match After the first day's play was washed out due to heavy rain when East Bengal were leading by a solitary goal, they had to fight all the way to get past Gorkha Brigade from Simla (which had earlier trounced Punjab Regimental Centre 5-0 in the pre-quarter final) East Bengal were fortunate because the goal which got them through to the semi final could be termed a lucky one C. D. Francis ran down the left flank and sent a shot across the goalmouth Perhaps he had wanted to centre it, but at the last moment the ball swerved and went in Throughout the encounter, it was the Gorkha team which had the better of the exchanges, but they failed to shoot when in front of the East Bengal goal

BSF had to toil hard to defeat Railway Football Club from Calcutta (who had earlier accounted for Kishore Sangha from Siliguri 2-0) and though they won 3-0, it was not as easy an encounter as the score suggests The game started on a slow note with both teams trying to seize each other up Then Ranjit Chatterjee's shot hit the post and that seemed to change the whole complexion of the game The railwaymen seemed to lose heart and even though they tried, they let in two quick goals through Avani Gope and Nand Kishore BSF custodian Charanjit Singh played well and parried quite a few shots from the RFC forwards and in the dying minutes of the match Pradip Subba scored the third goal for his side All the goals were due to defensive lapses as they came from close range shots

North Bengal Sub Area, a team comprising local military players created an upset when they defeated the seeded Port Trust side in another quarter-final match Port Trust, because of their performance in the Calcutta League, where they had beaten East Bengal, were seeded directly into the quarter-final but the local players fought hard and were successful. In the earlier round, NBGSA had defeated a Sikkim XI 2-1.

Among the other first and second round matches, the one between Aryan and Sonali Sibir was interesting as it went to the tie-breaker, where Aryan prevailed And it was the same Sonali Sibir, which had defeated the local Darjeeling XI by the odd goal in three in the opening match of the tournament.



C D Francis (extreme right) scoring the first goal for East Bengal in the final

Majid scoring the second goal for his side against NBGSA



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GOVERNOR'S GOLD CUP

Mafatlal weave a winning web

SUBHASH SARCAR reports from Gangtok

DEDICATION, determination, diligence and lastly teamwork was the success formula of the Sikkim Football Association. The SFA's young officials under the stewardship of president P K Pradhan and secretary Karma Yougel strove to put the border State on the Indian football map with the All India Governor's Gold Cup tournament. Initially this competition did not have much of an impact as only local teams used to participate. Last year with the "blessings" of the All India Football Federation a few Calcutta teams made the journey to Gangtok including Mohammedan Sporting. The latter won the attractive cup last year but did not defend the title this year because they were a depleted side. In the eyes of the soccer fans at Sikkim's capital the black and whites were regarded as highly unsporting.

However when the AIFF first recognised the Governor's Cup as a major tournament some of the country's top teams converged on the sandy Paljor Stadium to prove their mettle. Those who participated will never forget the warm reception and hospitality extended by the SFA which will surely attract more teams in the future. One drawback was that despite the SFA's efforts the 'Big Three' of Calcutta avoided Gangtok. East Bengal had given their word but backed out at the last minute. Undaunted, the organisers pledge that they will get these teams to play in Gangtok in future.

The absence of Calcutta's big clubs in no way robbed the tournament of its keen spirit of competition and bets galore were placed on the outcome. Bombay's Mafatlal went home smiling after defeating the Bangalore outfit, Indian Telephone Industries, 4-2 in the final. This victory was a great morale booster for the Bombay side as they had never met with much success against the Bangalore outfit before.

ITI were considered the favourites in the final. In fact, they could have won but for some bad luck and for the fact that their morale had taken a beating because of the misbehaviour of one of their officials which caused them great embarrassment. Then again, ITI captain Rajasekhar, who won the best player award, could have changed the tide of the match had he not missed three good chances within six minutes of each other. But their display on the day fell way below expectations, especially compared to





JCT's Inder Singh being chased in the semi-final

their previous outings If anyone did put up a grand show it was medio Kumar who was truly the vital link between the forwards and the deep defence The rest were just mediocre, but, David and Rajasekhar tried their best

Mafatlal surprised the huge crowd with their time display by coming into the game ten minutes after the start They mounted pressure on the defence and succeeded in drawing first blood through linkman Bartho Pereira off a centre in the 15th minute They increased the margin through a penalty 16 minutes later when goalkeeper Umapathy Shankar held onto Keith Swain's legs inside the box Saveed converted this without any problems This, however did not worry the ITI boys as they reduced the margin two minutes before lemon time when flankman David took full advantage of a defence lapse between Alim Khan and Hanumantha and booted home off Ravikumar

Mafatlal continued their gallant fight although they missed a couple of chances three minutes after the breather Rajasekhar squandered a sitter, kicking wide of the mark from close range off a David centre ITI got back into their stride and fought back This was erratic football, but a sudden fast move by winger Ratan Thapa found the mark off a pass from Anand Singh to give Mafatlal a convincing lead and Manuel Fichado scored the fourth off Keith Swain But ITI rallied and a couple of minutes later Ravikumar netted off a David centre The ITI coach Ramakrishna Rao said "Mafatlal played well in the first 10 minutes, then we came in and according to the run of play, referee Tarak Sen gave a penalty when the goalkeeper had saved the ball That was all right but how could Mr Sen overlook Prem Dorji's handling of the ball? My boys did not function properly in the first half and although they were everywhere in the second half we missed a few sitters" Maqbool Ahmed, the Mafatlal coach, had this to say "I still say that the absence of Salma Joseph, Cardoz and Joseph had reduced the team's punch considerably Ratan Thapa, Hanumantha and Fichado functioned well Both my wingers seemed to be out of form but picked up later The ITI defence was weak though ours was no better But we missed a lot of chances"

IT was sad indeed that JCT had to make their exit in the tie-breaker against ITI It could be said that JCT played better on the day but ITI won Indeed, the tie-breaker might not have been enforced had the goal by ebullient veteran international Inder Singh not been disallowed He had scored in the first half of extra time when both teams were locked one-all

Linesman Anju Bhutia raised his flag but who referee Subhan blew the whistle for a goal the linesman promptly brought the flag down But one of the ITI officials—whose presence proved very irritating—suddenly entered the field and raised the linesman's hand to claim it offside The referee looked puzzled but the linesman insisted that goal had been scored from an offside position This only goes to say that Bhutia was not conversant with the rules It was his duty to have kept the flag raised and not to have had second thoughts

Inder rushed towards him and politely asked how could he reverse his decision Later, Inder said "This is a game One either loses or wins We were not hankering after a victory but for once we deserved a correct decision That linesman's conscience will trouble him now It is clear he knows nothing about the rules of the game" JCT coach G S Virk said "How this is allowed, God only knows"

The Phagwara team, though handicapped by the absence of four of their star players in Parmar, Parminder, Harjinder (all at the India camp) and Sukhvinder, who is injured, began with a slight edge over their rivals The cool Inder played as a schemer and fed the forwards well, though it was none other than this simple veteran who availed a forward pass, skilfully beat a defender and booted home in the 30th minute of the first half Earlier, his team-mate Kashmira, who netted five of the eight goals against Rajasthan, missed two good chances because he was erratic

ITI, a side which had performed well in previous matches was not at its best but came into the game about five minutes before lemon time, getting the equaliser through a full-blooded shot from Ravi Kumar which went past the clutches of the rival custodian

Though the match was a mediocre one, play was largely confined to the midfield and both teams had their chances in the second half The Phagwara goalkeeper gathered confidence under the bar and played well, fisting away two of David's shots, while Uma-

pathy Kumar, the ITI goalie, was lucky that Kashmira missed a close-range cross by a fraction although later on he saved one from the same striker This half saw some of the Bangalore boys intentionally injure Inder and on two occasions he took the boot without any anger on his face However, extra-time saw JCT make a last frantic bid to score Inder did get one but this was disallowed and when some of his players wanted to argue he slapped two of his players and told the team to keep quiet

JCT's best chance came in the second half of extra time when Kultar had a very good chance to head in when ITI custodian left his citadel but he shot over the crosspiece ITI had the luck but had not Inder Singh missed his shot in the tie breaker things would have been different

EARLIER, Bombay's Mafatlal edged out robust Punjab Police in the semi finals The policemen gave of their best in the tournament but the Bombay outfit banged home a goal through winger Ratan Thapa off an Anand Singh centre in only the third minute This baffled their opponents momentarily and Balwinder scored the equaliser four minutes later when he missed from a melee after a defender failed to anticipate the movement of the ball

Mafatlal got their second goal through Manuel Fichado off a flag kick "I told Fichado to move in from the left and it worked though he missed three good chances," commented coach Maqbool Ahmed "What Punjab Police lacked on the day was punch and finish, but they took advantage of the unimpressive Mafatlal linkmen and Harvinder was seen overlapping in their zone to cause some anxious moments Balwinder missed another opportunity in the second half, sending a feeble shot that was easily countered "I told Hanumantha to mark Balwinder and he succeeded The opposing forwards could do little He is a very good player"



Iqbal Singh kicking Aryan's Amitava Mukherjee Punjab Police won



Balwinder of Punjab Police moves in against Aryan in the quarters

Policemen are known for their robust style of play and the Punjab team was no exception Captain Keith Swain was injured by rough tackling and medio Ravi Bhusan should have been cautioned by referee Tarak Sen. "I particularly asked my boys to keep cool I warned them that the policemen would come for the man instead of the ball My boys succeeded," concluded the Mafatlal coach

IN the quarter final stage the three Calcutta teams which were seeded into the last eight made their exit Rajasthan provided the greatest shock In the absence of the black-and white shirts they were considered one of the leading contenders but went into a stump against JCT, taking a merciless drubbing 8-0 including the only hat trick of the tournament by Kashmira Singh The organisers had reason to be apprehensive but the next fixture between Aryan and Punjab Police helped ease the tension It was difficult to believe that Rajasthan had taken such a beating

At the outset, Rajasthan began most lethargically, conceded three goals within seven minutes and never really recovered thereafter They did everything but play football the covering was appalling, there was no effort to follow up chances, nor did they put up any resistance In fact, they did not look the side which gave Mohun Bagan such a fright in the IFA Shield semis The organisers even went to the extent of asking one of the club officials the reason for the debacle The explanation given was that "Four of our players, Swapan Routh, Swapan Palsar, Chandan Bhattacharjee and Tarun Mukhia, did not come"

The next match rose to great heights only to end in a replay when referee S A. Subhan of Tamil Nadu called off the game after extra time due to fading light The sturdy Punjab Police tried to take full advantage of the shorter Aryan boys and resorted to excessive hard tackling But the junior boys made their intentions very clear with a plucky display of football Referee Subhan should have been more strict about his supervision Defender Harvinder who believed in rough play in the first half deliberately felled the Aryan flankman but was not shown the yellow card But when an Aryan defender was caught in the same act although to a lesser degree he was unhesitatingly shown the yellow card

Aryan, who were cornered got the sympathy of the crowd and exhibited better football than the robust policemen in the replay Again, Subhan failed to take full control of the game as the police team resorted to tantrums Aryan could have won the match had the referee not overlooked the penalty in the 24th minute of the first session when Harvinder handled the ball inside the box Aryan manager Ram Ganguly said with bitterness "First of all, the refereeing was extremely poor Had we got the penalty the story would have been entirely different Everyone saw Harvinder handling the ball inside Then again, Subhan had no control of the match, otherwise my boys would have performed better"

The match was more or less confined to the midfield zone and although both sides made sporadic raids custodians Jhalman and Achintya Das rose to the occasion nobly Winger Srijan Das missed an easy chance when he had to boot home promptly but he dilly dallied for a defender to foil the attempt Then Jhalman was quick enough to stop Bijoy Dutta and Amitava Mukherjee So did Jagdev miss an easy header off a Balbir (Sr) centre Amitava got another chance in the latter half but was intentionally felled by Iqbal Singh

Iqbal is a fine stopper and works very hard With a little more experience in big ties he should develop into a fine player In fact, he has the makings of another Jarnail Singh Achintya Das gave a sparkling performance under the Aryan bar He looked a picture of confidence and showed good anticipation Fortune did not smile on them as they lost in the tie-breaker 4-5, Jhalman saving the fifth shot Anyway, the crowd had the final say gallant Aryan earned the reputation of a better side

Punjab Police coach Dharam Singh said "My boys put up a very good display but honestly our shooting was poor—that was our main defect We had the upper hand Had we included a schemer we could have done better and scored through Balwinder I am trying to get someone to help him Jhalman did well under the bar"

Bombay's Matatlal came out best in the third quarter-final match against Border Security Force The general consensus of the public was that the Bombay outfit was a clean team playing better football whereas BSF depended solely on Narendra Gurung and Nand Kishore with the predictable result that Gurung was put under unwarranted pressure



Jhalman of Punjab Police

Midway through the first half BSF missed a chance through Nand Kishore when he had only Saluthana to beat but proved unequal to the task Medio Fichado was instrumental in the first goal He moved in and collided with the onrushing goalkeeper and before a desperate defender could clear the rebound, a darting Ratan Thapa placed the ball home

Matatlal sealed BSF's fate when Ratan Thapa headed in off a Swami flag kick He missed a hat trick opportunity because he was a little slow in a cross pass inside the danger zone Matatlal coach Maqbool Ahmed said "BSF's chief setback was the loss of four good players, otherwise the match could have gone either way Alim Khan and Balakrishnan did not perform well thereby enabling BSF to make some raids from that side"

While Aryan and CPT bowed out graciously and a gutsy, disciplined Aikya Sammilani set a very good example on the field, Sonali Shibir stained the Calcutta reputation with their poor sportsmanship and deliberate rough play

Things would not have taken a bad turn had IFA panel referee Natarajan handled the match strictly and cautioned Bijoy Dikpati initially Dikpati was clearly seen fouling on two occasions, intentionally elbowing one of the opposing forwards and later kicking another forward These two instances were enough provocation for him to be shown the card—and yet the referee overlooked the two infringements Dikpati took full advantage of Natarajan's leniency and both teams fought on earnestly to take the score to 2-2

The trouble began when Alok Sengupta scored when he had only the goalkeeper to beat There was no question of an offside but two of Sonali's officials and the standbys immediately surrounded linesman Susanta Choudhury and forced him to signal offside which he declined

Even Natarajan was sure of the goal but still asked the linesman to make sure By then, the rest of the team had surrounded Choudhury and in front of Natarajan abused and threatened him with dire consequences Yet the referee casually asked the team to resume play The game commenced but all of a sudden the linesman was seen lying on the ground in agony, the victim of an assault by Dikpati He had to be carried off the field and strange though it may seem, Natarajan did not bother Seeing this, the fourth referee immediately took the flag just to complete the match Finally, it is reliably learnt that not a single line was mentioned in the referee's report

The fourth quarter final between Calcutta Port Trust and Indian Telephone Industries was replayed, but was this justifiable? A fatigued Port team which landed at Gangtok four hours prior to the match took a 3-1 lead over ITI in the first half, Krishanu Dey scoring two of his side's goals To the utter surprise of the crowd, ITI protested that the ground was unplayable when it began to rain at the interval

James Karthak, Sikkim's top referee, had the final say in this affair He sought the advice of the tournament panel, but the game was abandoned It is still not known how this situation arose when conditions were still suitable for play Karthak should have continued the match and then blown the whistle One cannot help but wonder whether the sudden change in attitude was manipulated CPT coach Achyut Banerjee was of the opinion that a grave injustice was done to them, especially since they were leading 3-1

CPT were reluctant about agreeing to the replay but agreed later on and in spite of their exhaustion they gave it their all Actually the portmen won and lost the match The blame can only be put on Sekhar Chakraborty who could have increased the lead when he only had to beat custodian Umapathy Shankar Instead he tried to dribble past the goalkeeper, found himself at an acute angle and spoiled the chance Lapses by defenders Manick Mukherjee and Swapan Roy gave Ravi Shankar the equaliser and a similar situation enabled Raja Sekhar to get the match winner.

EXHIBITION BOXING

Good show by Bengal boxers

THE national boxing team of Nepal visited West Bengal on a goodwill tour from September 23 to 28, in response to the West Bengal Boxing League's visit to Nepal in February last.

The West Bengal Boxing League, which once unsuccessfully tried to bring the the world champion Muhammad Ali to Calcutta with a view to r reviving interest in the sport in this state, organised two shows at the IISCO Kusti Stadium at Burnpur and Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta, where huge crowds witnessed some excellent bouts between the boxers of West Bengal and their opponents from the Himalayan kingdom, who had sharpened their skills at the AIBA Solidarity coaching camp at Kathmandu. The training they underwent made them not only tough and aggressive but also technically well-equipped. At Burnpur, the bout between Olympian Narendra Poma and Paritosh Dey of Bengal was a treat to the eyes. Though Poma suffered an early drop in the first minute at the hands of Paritosh, who unleashed a perfectly-timed combination punch, he rallied to stage a comeback in the final rounds and won the fight. Paritosh, however, went down fighting. At Netaji Indoor Stadium, though Umesh Maskey was in excellent form and had the experience of the Olympics, Marcos Cup and Asian Boxing Championships behind him, he found a superior and seemingly invincible opponent in Bhutnath Mukherjee, who is known these days as the Tiger of Bengal. With his ducks, side steps, copybook hooks and uppercuts, Bhutnath treated the spectators to a spectacular show, and won the bout on points

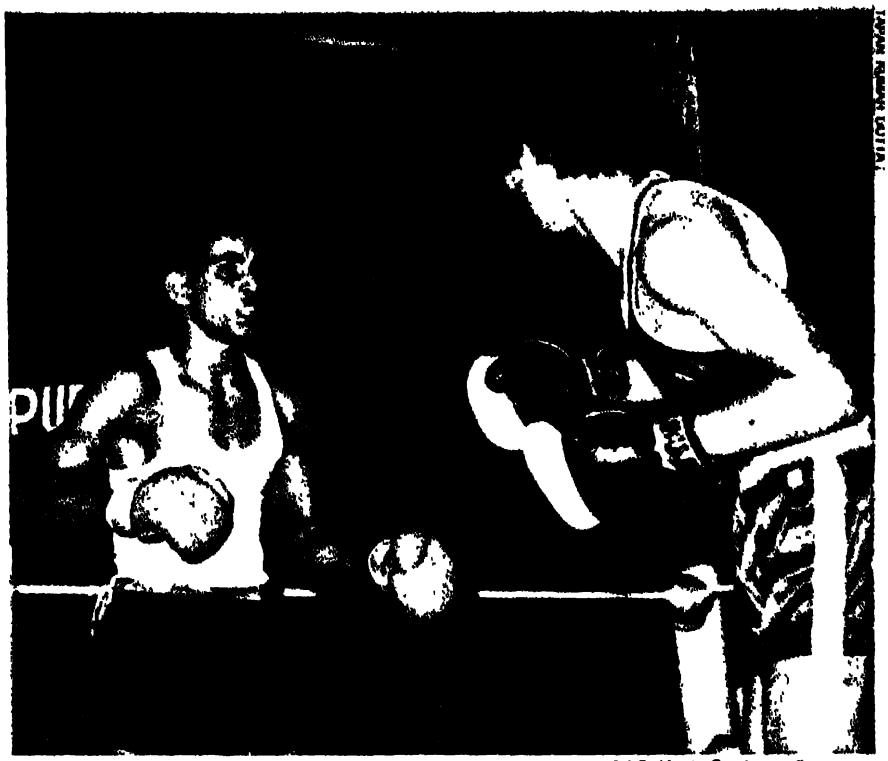
Among others of the Nepalese team who proved their prowess, special mention must be made of the two Yam Thapas who took part in the flyweight and featherweight bouts respectively Dal Bahadur was full of stamina and confidence and proved too powerful to be overcome by the Bengal boys In fact, the entire team was in peak form

Among the Bengal fighters Partha Das, Shyam Das, Jaga Ghosh, Ashim Halder, Pradeep Majumder, Madan Paul and Anutava Sanyal excelled in different weight categories to keep the banner flying for their State which eventually won the two tests by 7-3 and 5-3 respectively

One reason for the good show put up by the fighters from Bengal is surely the rigorous training they underwent in the coaching camps conducted by the NIS coaches like Banshi Seal, Shankar Seal and Ganesh Choudhury Banshi Seal, also a former national champion, who was the chief coach of the Bengal team said, "We can produce more champs Just give us some support "

Duncan Agro provided wonderful support, proving to be of great value to the WBBL Along with Calcutta Medical Centre, they came forward to encourage the youth movement. For their part, the WBBL spent Rs 80,000 for the two tests held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium and the Burnpur IISCO ring, which is supported by the Physique Centre The organisers are happy with the government response and look forward to staging such attractive shows in near future.Mr A. K Dutta, IPS, president of the WBBL expressed his gratitude to all for their cooperation In its effort to popularise the sport in this state, the West Bengal Boxing League, since its inception in 1973 has established many boxing centres and rings in various districts of West Bengal, like Malda, Purulia, and Murshidabad. Young boys from remote villages have been introduced to the game and given training The Eastern Command and the police have also extended their cooperation to make the league's mission successful

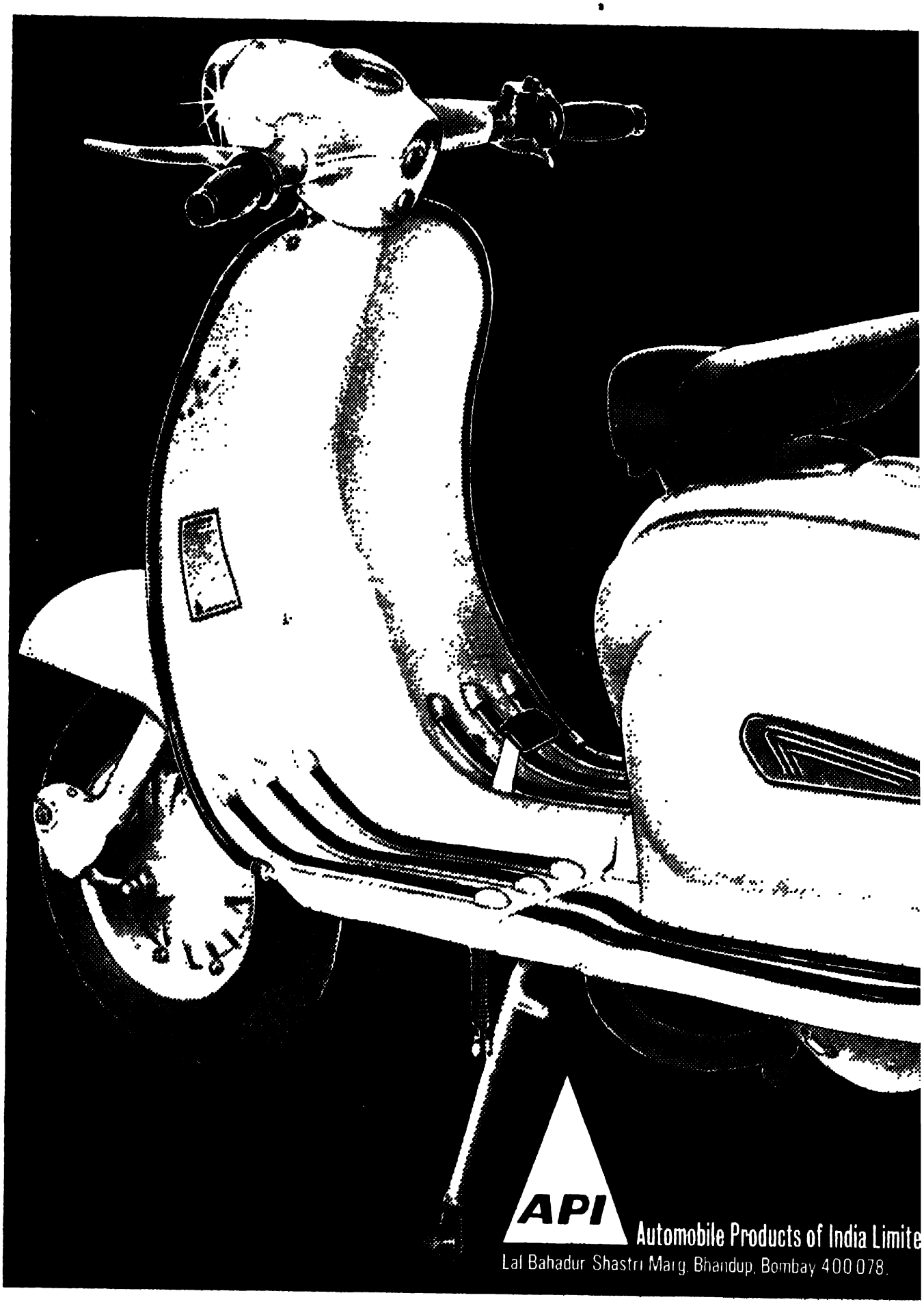
ASIT BANERJEE, Calcutta.



Paritosh Dey (right) face to face with Narendra Poma (left) at the IISCO Kusti Stadium Burnpur



Such exchanges will help strengthen ties as well as develop the sport" says Dr M Lohini, Consul General for Nepal prior to the bouts at the Netaji Indoor Stadium Seated alongside are Mr Bishnu Shrestha president Nepal Boxing Association and Swami Lokeshwaranand on his right The latter felt that boxing could translate Swami Vivekananda's message both in and outside the ring


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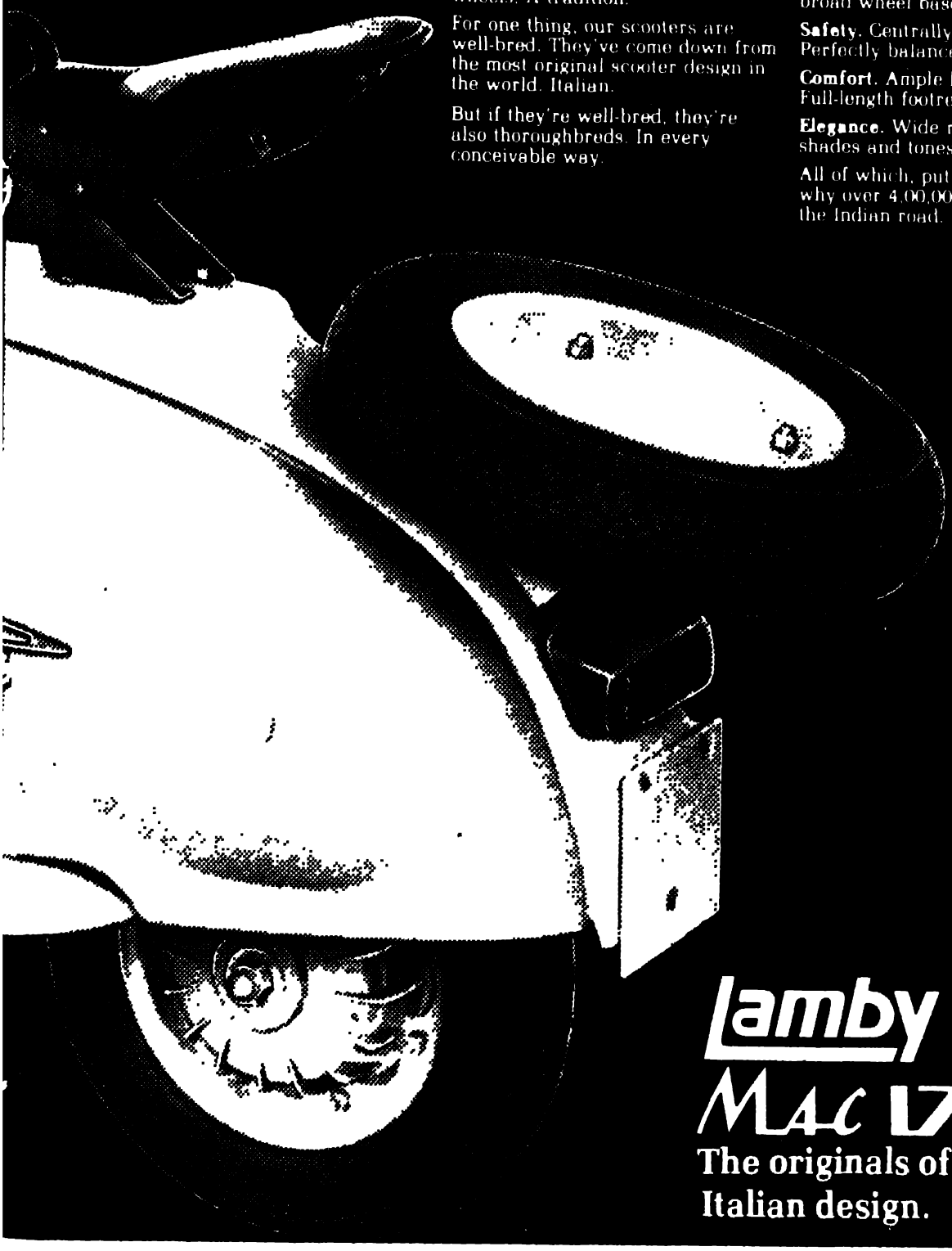
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Sportspeople

A promising prospect

EVER since its name was changed from Holkar to Indore, this city of gardens has seldom witnessed the emergence of promising cricketers But now, at long last, there is one—25 year-old *Sanjeeva Rao* who has proved himself as one of the brightest Test prospects for the opening berth for the country A product of St Paul's School, Indore, Sanjeeva Rao showed his class for the first time when he established a new Indore University record by scoring an unbeaten 259 in the finals of the inter collegiate tournament in November 1976 At the time, he was playing for Indore Christian College, an institution that usually produces the entire Ranji Trophy team and has also given India the great table tennis player Jall Godrej

That same year, Sanjeeva was selected to represent Indore University in the inter university (West Zone) tournament at Pune Unfortunately, a couple of days before the tournament he fractured his middle finger But that was not enough to deter him from going to Pune where he was destined to make a sensational breakthrough In the quarter-final against Sardar Patel University, Indore, having conceded a first innings lead to their opponents, were on the verge of defeat on the final day after lunch when the Sardar Patel University boys were 86 for two in the second innings

At this stage Sanjeeva, who could do nothing of note as a batsman, handicapped by his broken finger, requested his skipper to let him bowl his occasional leg spinners Believe it or not, he took four wickets for only 27 runs to help his side achieve a sensational victory Had Indore lost this match, Sanjeeva might have faded into oblivion like many a talented cricketer

In the semi final, he recorded the highest score of 32, which contained some delectable shots to mid wicket It was on the strength of this neat innings that the West Zone selectors picked him for the Vizzy Trophy in preference to Ghulam Parkar who had already notched up two lightning centuries in the tournament It was indeed a surprise decision and on reading the news in the local dailies Sanjeeva could not help but say "I can't believe my eyes"

Sanjeeva made the most of this heaven sent opportunity With his finger completely healed, he scored the most runs for West Zone against East and North Zone with 83 and 29 respectively and continued to score heavily in the Ranji matches for MP in 1977 ,though brief, fall from grace in 1979 and was unable to gather more than 30 odd runs He attributed this to his tendency of flashing outside the off stump

Consequently, the MP selectors instructed State skipper Ashok Jagdale not to include Sanjeeva in the final eleven to take on Vidarbha, though he was selected for the team But shrewd captain that Ashok Jagdale was, he went against the wishes of the selectors and inducted Sanjeeva into the team He responded with a magnificent innings which marked his return to form

After this there was no looking back for the youngster Last year, by virtue of his 112 against UP and 79 against Rajasthan, he was given the opportunity to make his debut in the Duleep Trophy for Central Zone He scored a mammoth 188 in the first innings to shatter Yashpal Sharma's record and made 96 in the second

The same year, while captaining Central Zone in the absence of Parthasarathy Sharma, he scored a match winning, unbeaten 104 to steer his team to victory by only four runs

Describing his meteoric rise he said, "My main intention is to stay at the wicket for an hour or so and then execute my strokes I achieved my success only when I stopped yielding to the temptation of flailing at the outgoing ball I refrain from snicking, but I love to place the ball through gully " Of late, Sanjeeva Rao has improved his fielding to a great extent and this has enhanced his chances for a Test cap

Commenting on this young cricketer's performance Syed Mushtaq Ali says, "I have been waiting for this day when the mantle of the Holkars would be taken over by an Indorite I can only say that Sanjeeva Rao after stumbling across in the dark has lighted this long delayed fire "

A lone fighter

INDIA's top junior chess player, *Pramod Kumar Singh*, who returned to Patna recently after taking part in the World Junior Championship held at Mexico City from August 18 to September 3, feels that had there been a manager or a 'second' with him, he could have, hopefully, finished among the first 10

From the 13 rounds that he played, he secured five points through four wins and two draws. He defeated the champions of Mexico, Nigeria, New Zealand and Pakistan and drew with Peter J Evens of New Guinea and the second string of the host nation

The championship was grabbed by Ognjen Cvitan of Yugoslavia, who got 10 and a half out of the 13 possible points Soviet Union's Jaan Ehlvest and Britain's Nigel Short were placed second and third, respectively. Singh was placed 35th in the 50-nation championship



Pramod Kumar Singh

formance in tournaments at home, Pramod said that he did not have the opportunity of discussing the adjourned games with a knowledgeable manager or a coach There were very few teams which were without a 'second' which is a must in the game as the adjourned games need to be discussed, especially when the other player has someone to open the book for him and refer to the relevant chapters He said that even the Pakistan player had a manager with him

It was quite exhausting to match the world's best chess playing brains He could have added at least three points to his tally had he not lost the games he came close to winning

Pramod, however, has emerged wiser after his visit to Mexico City and he is preparing for the forthcoming Asian Juniors scheduled to be held at Dacca from November 22 He said that he would try his best to erase memories of his poor performance in the World Meet

Indian invited to Australia

The former North Zone and Punjab Ranji player, *Ashwini Minna* has been offered to play for North Melbourne Cricket Club this winter, it is reliably learnt here Mr Len, Chairman of the Victorian Cricket Association and Mr. Vic Gayer, Secretary of the North Melbourne Cricket Club who visited M/s Hans Raj Mahajan & Sons recently, finalised the deal with Minna who will represent the North Melbourne Club as a leg spinner Mr Len assured Minna that if his performance in the club games is found satisfactory, he will be offered a berth in the Victorian team for the Sheffield Shield competition He will be the second Indian after Rusi Surti to play for an Australian State team if everything goes well. A journalist by profession he is ex-

Newsround-up

Sports enthusiasm in USSR

MOSCOW: More than 82 million people in the Soviet Union go in for physical training and sports. They have at their disposal 3,500 stadia, 1,650 swimming pools, 73,000 gymnasiums, and more than 600,000 playgrounds. Not only did the Moscow Olympics leave them a wealth of sports facilities in Moscow and Tallinn but also imparted a powerful impetus to the physical fitness movement as a whole.

The period just prior to the Games witnessed an increased interest in sport. Mass participation in physical fitness activities sprang up in the country's republics and cities like Estonia and others

Families from 260 cities and districts took part in countrywide competitions held under the motto "The Whole Family to the Starting Line." The possibilities offered by volunteer neighbourhood sports projects are very encouraging. In Kharkov, thousands of children have received training in swimming at a mini pool, called Goldfish

The Rovesnik sports complex provides teenagers with a fine football pitch, a running track and courts. These facilities are owned and run by housing offices —organisations which seemingly have nothing directly to do with sport

Many cities in the Union republics have "health lanes" where people go in for sport in winter and summer, in the morning and evening, alone or in groups. One out of every three residents in Sevastopol, Kohtla-Jarve, Mogilev, Salavat and Zarafshan is a sports enthusiast

Today the USSR has to concentrate on mass-scale physical education and sports activities in the areas of Siberia, the Far East, along the BAM route in particular, in the Far North and the Non-Black Earth Zone. To do this the government will broaden the network of schools, sports centres and camps and will build new stadia. And the emphasis, of course, will be on children. A person who is involved in sport from childhood sticks to it for many years to come, growing up healthy, strong and agile



Aid to the blind: A simple electronic aid to guide blind people has been developed in Britain and is being used by Graham Salmon, the sightless British world champion sprinter who can run 100 metres in just over 11 seconds

Gujarat dominates skating tourney

SIMLA: Some 50 talented skaters representing Gujarat, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh competed in the various events of the All-India S P. Mumick Invitation tournament held recently at Simla to commemorate the second death anniversary of Late S P Mumick, president of the Roller Skating Federation of India

Pardeepak Malvai of Delhi annexed the artistic skating title, beating Manu Thapai (Chandigarh). Though the latter had an edge over his rival in free skating, Pardeepak claimed the title on the basis of maximum points

Gujarat's favourite and also the reigning national champion, Smita Sheth, faced no opposition in claiming the artistic titles. Smita has greatly improved her jumps and combination spins. However, it was Chandigarh's Jagdeep Bains who claimed the speed skating honours

Gujarat's domination of the skating scene was further proved by young Alpana Makim who was crowned the artistic skating queen in the below 14 section for girls, after she beat even the reigning national champ, Sapna Desai, also, from Gujarat. Alpana now poses a great challenge to other prominent skaters in the forthcoming All India Open Championships at Mussoorie and the Nationals at Calcutta. She has complete control over her jumps and spins in free skating and moves well

Naman Parekh added another feather to Gujarat's cap. With her graceful jumps, comprising the loop, lutz, flip, salcho and perfect landing, she performed quite flawlessly

Rink hockey, like field hockey, is also catching on. It struck out a place of its own in the tournament. National champions Chandigarh could not meet the challenge from their traditional rivals, Himachal Pradesh, and tasted defeat with the score at 12-15

Most of the goals for Himachal were netted by Sanjeev Datta, Ashok Bakaya and Bhaskar, while the Chandigarh shooters were Amit Jain, Arvind Choudhury and Harinder Singh

UMESH GAIKWAD

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Three Australians—Bradman, Trumper and Macartney—and one Pakistani—Majid Khan—have scored a century before lunch on the first day of a Test match, but no Englishman.

The nearest an Englishman has come to achieving it is the 98 not out of a Gloucestershire man opening against Australia in a Test at Trent Bridge back in 1938. At lunch England's score was 169 for none and off the first ball after the interval he reached three figures.

He went on to make 126, including 18 fours, in a dashing display that moved *Wisden* to record: "He drove and cut in magnificent style. Some of his drives off the back foot were splendidly executed."

The Gloucestershire batsman shared with Len Hutton (100) a first-wicket partnership of 219 which surpassed the previous best against Australia in England—185 at The Oval 39 years before by the Hon. F. S. Jackson and Tom Hayward.

QUESTION 1 Who was the England batsman who fell only two short of sharing first-day century-before-lunch Test honours with Bradman, Trumper and Co.?

The Test in which the near miss occurred—the first of the 1938 series—provided the only occasion on which four batsmen have scored centuries in the same innings of a match between England and Australia.

The Lancashire "great" Eddie Paynter made 216 not out and two batsmen—one of them Hutton—but hundreds in their first Test against Australia.

At 20 years 19 days the other Englishman to reach three figures remains his country's youngest Test century maker.

QUESTION 2 Who is he?

Reverting to centuries before lunch. While only four batsmen have performed the feat on the first day of a Test, nine have done so on other days—five of them for England.

The first was the legendary Ranjitsinhji. On the third morning of an 1896 Test against Australia at Manchester he took an overnight score of 41 not out to 154 not out. His 113 runs in 130 minutes are still the most scored in the pre-lunch session of a Test between England and Australia.

Four Englishmen have scored a century before lunch on a day other than the first but only one of them against Australia.

At the end of a rain-interrupted first day, when England were 129 for four he was 19 after 70 minutes at the crease. But in the pre-lunch session on the Monday he added 109 in 150 minutes.

In all he batted 309 minutes for 182 not out.

QUESTION 3 Who was this batsman whose 182 not out set a record for England against Australia in England that stood for 17 years?

Two of the other pre-lunch centuries by English batsmen were scored against New Zealand. Walter Hammond hitting an overnight 41 not out to 152 not out in the course of compiling a record 336 not out at Auckland in 1933, and against South Africa a wicketkeeper-batsman racing from an overnight 25 not out to 148 not out at The Oval in 1935.

QUESTION 4 Who was the 'keeper-batsman whose 123 runs in the pre-lunch session are the most scored in this period in Tests?

The remaining Englishman to score a Test century before lunch, on a day other than the first, was an opening batsman who achieved the feat against South Africa—at the age of 41.

He did it at Lord's on the second day of a Test, taking an overnight score of 12 not out to 114 not out at lunch and finishing with 211.

This was the Test in which England gained victory for the loss of only two wickets—an achievement equalled by no other country. Nor has any country equalled their feat of scoring 500 runs in a day. On the second day England scored 503 for the loss of two wickets and from that point went on to 531 without further loss before declaring.

South Africa had made 273 in their first innings. In their second innings they reached 240, England winning by an innings and 18 runs.

The century before lunch batsman helped put on 268 for the first wicket and 142 for the second.

Describing the first-wicket stand, his biographer wrote that the pace of the scoring and the fluent certainty of the stroking demoralised the bowling side. He added: "They ran unbelievable short runs without any appearance of haste or danger. Their defence was impenetrable, their attack as commanding and assured as if they had no wickets behind them to lose."

The biographer said one might have expected the 41-year-old to be a little leg-weary by the time the opening stand was broken—his partner was out for 172—but instead he and England's No. 3 occupied the next hour and 20 minutes in scoring an additional 147 runs. The pace was too hot and furious to describe, wrote his biographer who went on: He got his 200 and began to hit at everything, at 211 he lifted his head and gave an easy catch. In his great 211 were 15 fours, but more significantly in the annals of this unusual veteran there were 85 singles, the unfailing machine never faltered."

QUESTION 5 Who was the "unusual veteran", the "unfailing machine"?

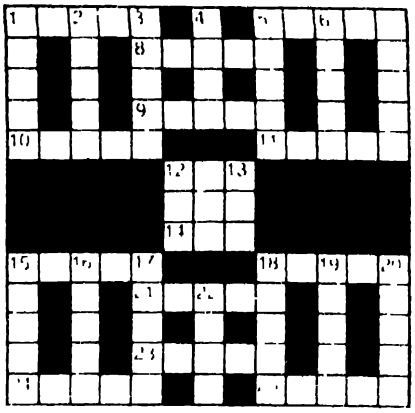
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Ted Arnold.
2 Arthur Conngham.
3 Maurice Tate. In the Test in which he dismissed Bardsley first ball he finished with 4/99. His Test debut, marked by the wicket with his first ball, was made in the first Test of the 1924 England South Africa series, at Birmingham, when he and Arthur Gilligan routed the Springboks for 30—lowest total ever made in a Test in England. Tate's figures were 4/12, Gilligan's 6/7.
4 15. Next lowest total for a match in Australia listed by Wisden is 18, by Tasmania against Victoria at Melbourne 1868-69.
5 Freddie Trueman, in the first match of the 1958/59 MCC tour of Australia and New Zealand. Trueman took 3/42 odd 14 overs in Western Australia's first innings of 221 in a drawn match—MCC 351 and 146 for four declared, Western Australia 221 and 124 for three.

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

117



ACROSS

1 Cricketer as good as a mile (5)
5 Find Christian name of contemporary T T player inside the most famous Italian race horse (5)
6 Association football club out in the heat (5)
9 Only part of a seeded casualty at Wimbledon 81 first round (4, 1)
10 So be it with this Calcutta football (5)
11 Eric hooked a few vehicles for England (5)
12 Irishman played cricket for India? (3)
14 Two reds, a blue and green (3)
15 Sprinter greets starter in the beginning (5)
18 Crusty these rural runners? (5)
21 The Flying Finn's Christian name (5)
23 Recede! Part of Mass backwards on billiards table (5)
24 Practical joke in bridge (5)
25 The Iliad and Baseball (5)

DOWN

1 Moghul emperor played football for India? (5)
2 A Mac finds batting and bowling easy (1, 4)
3 Shortened Anglo Indian plays hockey in Europe (5)
4 Not game in Indian wrestling (4)
5 Systematically arrange table-tennis and billiards match (5)
6 Table tennis player was born with the door always open (5)
7 Wally Swinburne (Jr) does this for a living (5)
12 Jump in the mine-shaft (3)
13 Cricket fashion? (3)
15 Bridge love? (5)
16 The Flying Finn (5)
17 Leon just does not make it (5)
18 Travelling teacher of sport (5)
19 Indoor Korfballing ascends (5)
20 'Tornado Fats' (5)
21 Part of venue for Grand National Steeplechase (4)

(Solutions next week)

SPORTY



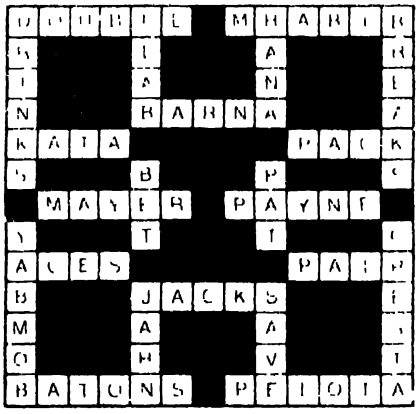
Quiz

Peter Gross

QUESTIONS

1 India got the fourth place in the 1956 Olympic soccer standings. Which country came fifth?
2 Mr Avery Brundage took the second place in an event of one of the earlier Olympics while a controversial athlete took the first. Who was he and what was the event?
3 Mr Brundage again, then the head of the USA's 1936 Olympic squad, gained world publicity by expelling a popular and attractive Olympic record holder in the women's backstroke because she engaged in some champagne drinking on the boat en route to Europe. Who was she?
4 His first born brought him good luck, for just before the Olympic marathon race started the eventual winner was informed that he had just become a father. Identify him.
5 What is the metric mile?
6 Which sport loving country is referred to as 'Down Under'?
7 Who was the first president of India's Cricket control board?
8 What was the maiden name of Dana Zatopekova?
9 Which Olympic 100m and 200m sprint

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD NO. 116



gold medallist woman suffered from polio and was bedridden for several years in her childhood?
10 Which medallist of the Tokyo Olympics sold her titles to an advertising firm and became a model?

ANSWERS

1 Great Britain
2 Jim Thorpe Discus throw--part of the men's pentathlon event (Stockholm Games)
3 Eleanor Holm
4 Alain Mimoun of France in 1956
5 1,500 metres
6 Australia
7 R E Grant Govan
8 Dana Ingrova 9 Wilma Rudolph
10 Donna de Varona

Question box

An[illegible] by Sudhir [illegible]

Kamalesh Agarwal, Bangalore
Q Can a wicket-keeper hold a catch in front of the wicket?
A Yes, he can collect the catch at any part of the field, only when the delivered ball has touched the bat or person of the striker

Dharam Singh Chahal
Q Who holds the record of scoring a century in each innings on most occasions?
A Sunil Gavaskar of India, who performed this feat thrice in Tests—an unparallelled in Test cricket history

Q. Which Indian cricketers have received the Arjuna Awards so far?
A S A Durrani, M A K. Pataudi, V L Manjrekar, C G Borde, A L Wadekar, E A S Prasanna, B S Bedi, D N Sardesai, S Venkataraghavan, B S Chandrashekar, E D Solkar, S M. Gavaskar, G R Vishwanath, Kapil Dev

Gyanchand Gulwani, Bhopal.
Q How many runs did Geoff Boycott score in the third Test vs Australia at Melbourne in 1979-80? How was he dismissed in that Test?
A Boycott made 44 and 7 runs in the third Test He was caught by Mallett off Dymock in the first innings and bowled by Lillee in the second innings

Bridge

Rex Schapiro

Sometimes you have two very distinct ways of playing a hand, sometimes more. This week's deal, from a pairs event, was a good example of multiple choice. There were three completely different approaches - a throw-in, a squeeze, or a simple finesse. That was fair enough — a genuine choice but why did *my* partner select a line that did not work?

North: ♠ K 8 6 2 ♡ 9 5 ♢ K J 8 3 ♣ K Q 7
West: ♠ Q J 10 4 ♡ 7 4 ♢ 10 6 4 ♣ 9 6 5 4
East: ♠ 9 7 5 ♡ K J 10 8 6 2 ♢ 9 5 ♣ 10 2
South: ♠ A 3 ♡ A Q 3 ♢ A Q 7 2 ♣ A J 8 3

In team play or rubber bridge there should be no problem: a contract of six diamonds, having sorted out the 4-4 fit, offers an easy play for at least 12 tricks. However, at pairs play, a lot of folk preferred to try for the extra points offered by the inferior contract of 6NT. Well, you can see the problems faced by the no-trumper after the lead of the Queen of spades. They had the classic decision: to win the first trick and hope to end play West; to duck and so correct the timing for a possible squeeze against either player holding both the spades and the King of hearts - or to take a dull heart finesse.

On this deal, where there had been no revealing opposition bidding, the throw-in was clearly a poor bet, for it was not at all clear which defender would be thrown in, nor whether he still had two spade tricks to cash. Correctly, partner rejected this idea and allowed ♠ Q to hold. He won the next spade lead and rattled off his eight minor suit winners and the King of spades to end in dummy. From the play of the cards it seemed sure that West still held ♠ J, but where was the King of hearts? If West had started life with this card it would now be bare, so partner played off ♡ A to go one down. "Why?" I asked (uncharacteristically briefly but nevertheless expressively). "It would have been much more elegant if the squeeze had worked," replied South. Fair enough, I suppose, but I always like simple finesses, especially if they work.

For the record, we would have done very well (and with complete safety) if we had bid to six diamonds. A lot of pairs hadn't bid any slam at all and a sprinkling who had a bid 6NT had, like us, ended with a minus score. By making 6NT we would only have gained about an extra quarter of a 'top' by going down, we lost three quarters.

Last week's quiz: at love all, you hold ♠ A 10 7 4 ♡ A 9 8 3 ♢ A 7 4 ♣ 4 2 and hear three clubs on your left followed by two passes. Most certainly I would reopen with a double. Partner, I hope, will not get too excited for I am in the protective position. However, if he has a couple of trump tricks or a few high cards without any great distribution, I will be delighted to hear him pass.

This week's quiz: West opens three clubs which your partner doubles (for take-out). What action do you take, after a pass by East, with ♠ K J 10 4 ♡ K Q 7 3 ♢ Q 6 ♣ 7 4 2?

Chess

Peter Clarke

The World Correspondence Championship has now been competed for eight times, and the USSR, which has dominated chess in general for most of the past 40 years, has provided only three of the titleholders: Vyacheslav Ragozin, Vladimir Zagorovsky and Yakob Estrin. Of the 15 finalists in the latest event six were Soviet players, and four of these finished in the top five places. Zagorovsky was at their head with the fine score of 11/14 but Jorn Sloth of Denmark, who had the same points total, took the title on the tiebreaker. Although that may seem tough for the runner up after a contest lasting more than four years, you cannot expect a play-off. Sloth deserved his victory in that he was not only unbeaten but also successful in three of his games against the Soviet contingent. Here is the most important of these wins, decided by a subtle exploitation of the initiative and pressure on vulnerable squares in White's camp.

White: **Abram Khasin;** Black: **Jorn Sloth.** Queen's Pawn Nimzowitsch Defence (8th World Correspondence Championship, 1975-80)

1 P – Q4, Kt – KB3;	**2 P – QB4, P – K3**
3 Kt – QB3, B – Kt5;	**4 P – K3, P – QKt3**
5 Kt – K2, B – R3;	**6 P – QR3, B x Ktch**
7 Kt x B, P – Q4,	**8 Q – B3 . . .**

The solid 8 P – QKt3 is thought to offer White more prospects.

8 . . . 0 - 0,	**9 B – K2, P – B4**
10 QP x P, KtP x P	

Black foregoes the excellent 10 . . . QKt – Q2 in favour of an even sharper continuation.

11 P x P, B x B,	**12 K x B, P x P**
13 R – Q1, Kt – B3,	**14 Kt x P, Kt x Kt**
15 R x Kt, Q – Kt3,	**16 K – B1, QR – Q1**
17 P – K4, Kt – Q5,	**18 Q – Q1, R x R**
19 P x R, R – Q1,	**20 Q – R4, Q – Kt3**
21 Q – B4, Kt – B7,	**22 B – Kt5, Kt x R**
23 B x R, Q – Kt8ch,	**24 K – K2, Q x Pch**
25 K – K3, Kt – Kt6;	**26 B – R4, P – KR3**
27 B – Kt3, Q – Q7ch,	**28 K – K4, Q – K8ch**
29 K – Q3, Q – Q8ch;	**30 K – K3, P – B4!**

This must have surprised Khasin, as it allows the passed pawn to advance with gain of tempo. The black pawns on the K side, however, help to expose the exposed King.

31 P – Q6ch, K – B1,	**32 B – K5, P – Kt4**
33 Q – B3 . . .	

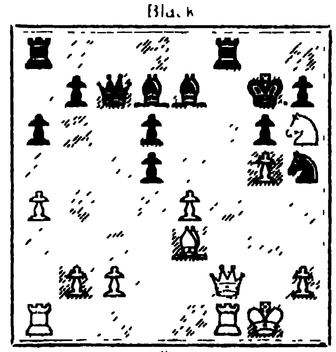
If 33 Q [illegible] then 33 . . . Q – QB8ch, 34 K – B2 Kt – Q7ch, 35 B x Kt, Q – K8 mate.

33 . . . Kt – B8;	**34 B – Kt7ch, K – Kt1**
35 Q – B4ch, K x B,	**36 P – Q7, P – B5ch**
37 Resigns	

Black wins the Queen ending easily after 37 . . . [illegible] Q x P, 38 Q x Kt, Q – Q8ch.

Competition G487. Solution next week

Black



White

How did White win prettily? Grade 2 (easy) Prizes of £10 for the first three correct solutions. Send yours, on a *postcard*, to Chess Competition G487, *The Sunday Times*, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT, by July 18

Solution to G486 (Sigurjonsson – Timman, Wijk aan Zee, 1980). (5rk1/p1p1ppb1/2qp2p1/8/1r1n1PQP/2N3R1/PPPB4/2KR4 – Black to play.) The Dutch grandmaster got his attack in first with 23 . . . R x P!! 24 K x R, Q – Kt2ch, 25 K – B1, P – KB4, and White resigned (if 26 Q x KtP, then 26 . . . Kt – Kt6ch mate next move)

Problem No 1152 Solution next week

S. Bjorklund (First Prize *Springaren*, 1953) **(q1r5/1b6/pQ4Pp/Kp2P3/1p1n3r/3NkpB1/5N2/b2R1B2 – 9 white men; 12 black).** White to play and mate in three moves

Solution to No 1151 (Macleod). (1Q2K3/r1p1p3/1Bn1N1np/1p5R/1pP1k3/b6B/2Pp4/3N1R1b – mate in two.) 1 B – Kt4 (threat 2 Kt – B2) (a) 1 . . . P x B, 2 B – B5, (b) 1 Kt – Q5, 2 Kt - B5

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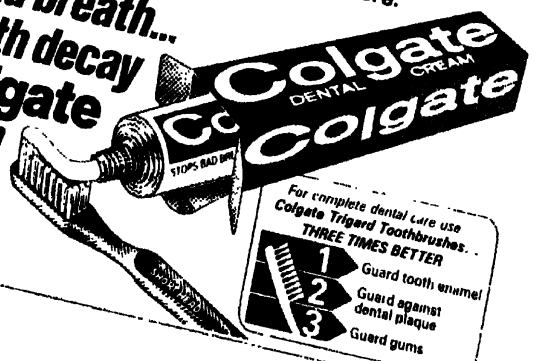


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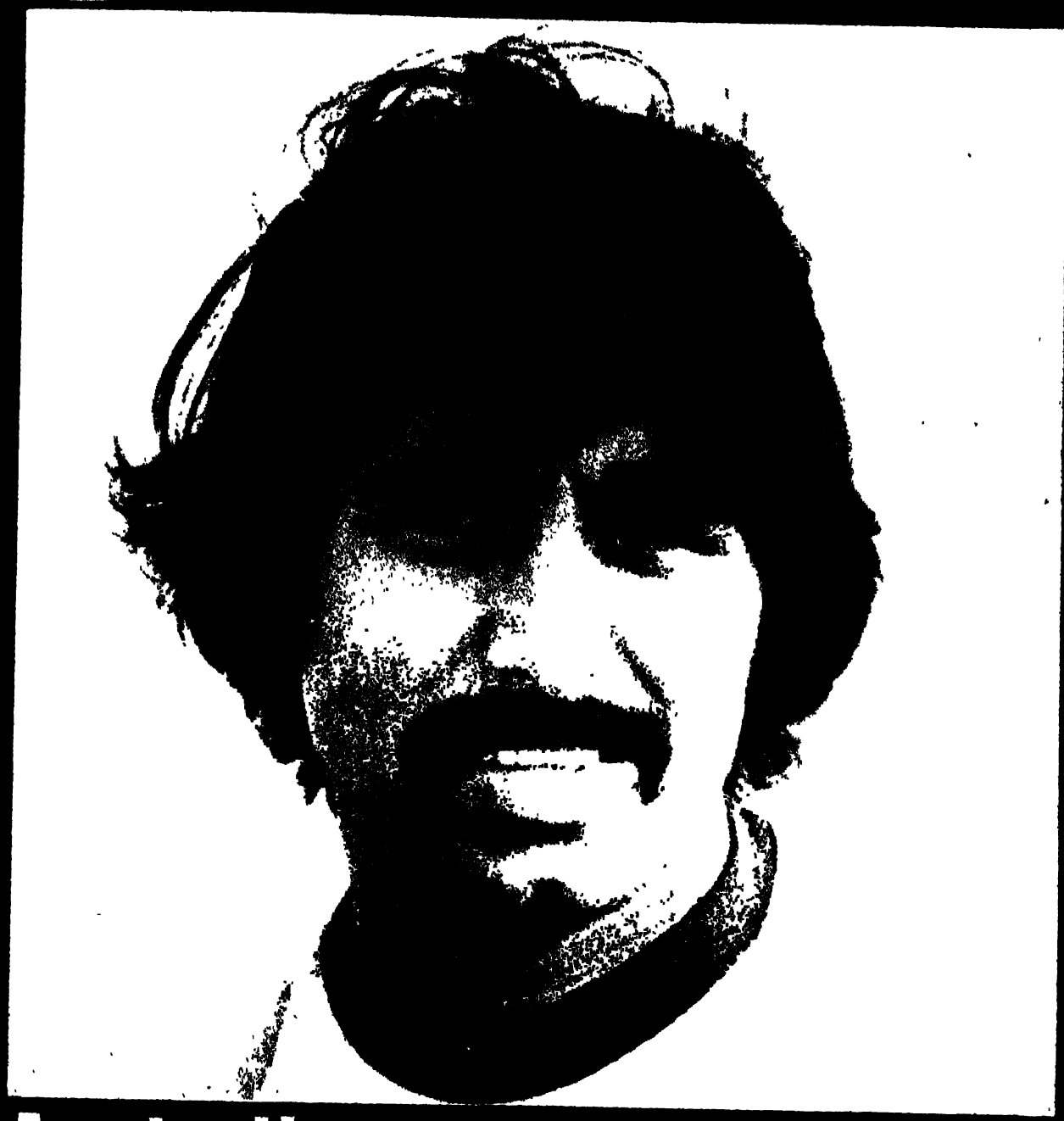


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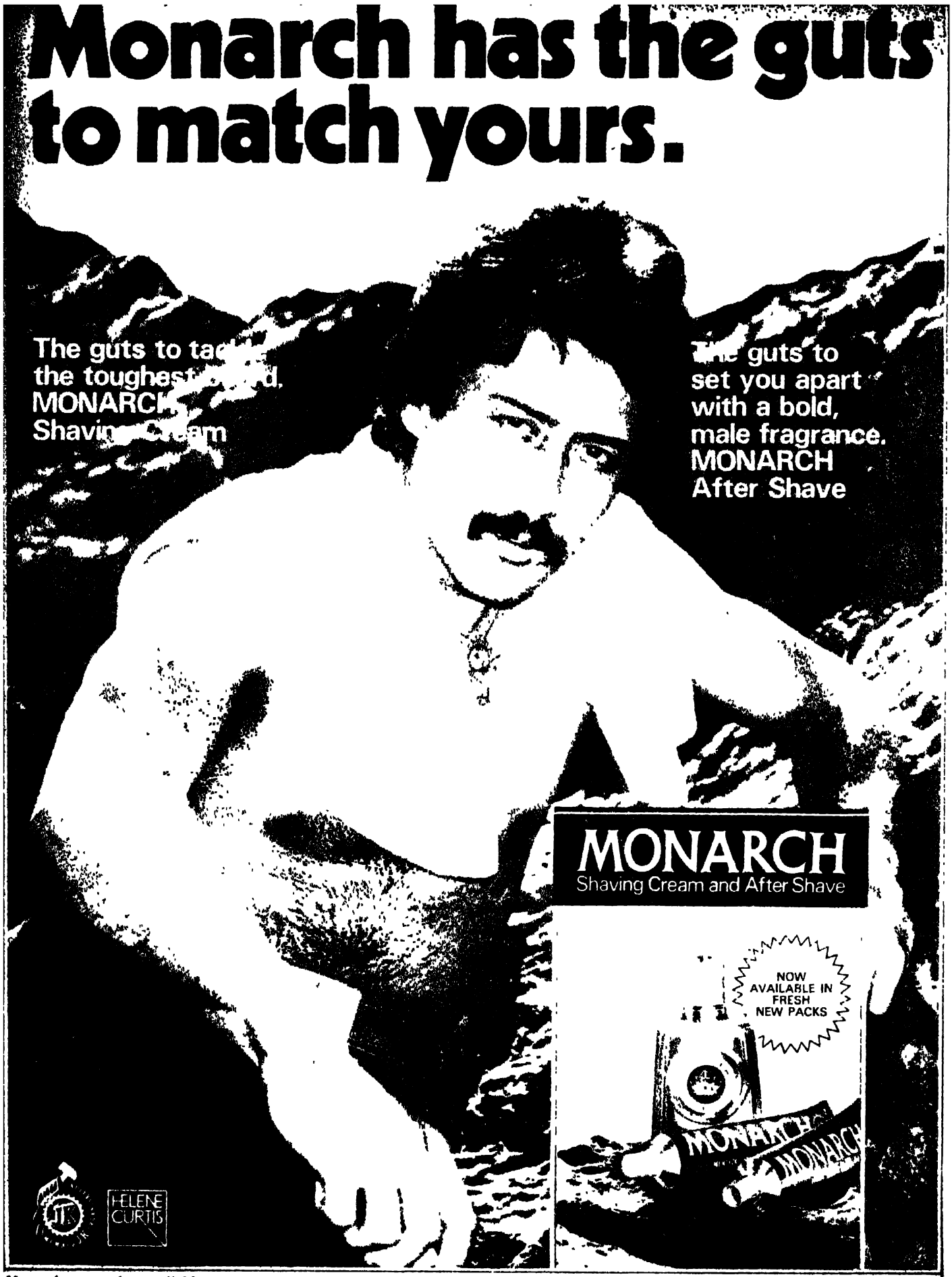
Australia can beat Pakistan

JOHN BENAUD assesses the tour

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Sportsworld 4 November 1981

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Letters to the Editor

Not done

WHY does Indian cricket always have to be battered with controversy? The mud-slinging that has now started must affect the team-spirit of our side. First, there was Bedi saying that Gavaskar got him axed. Now Bedi is again the central figure of another controversy. Yograj Singh comes out with an equally sensational "Bedi wants me out". The only difference in these two controversies is that while there appears to be no truth in Bedi's allegation there could be a lot of truth in the allegation against Bedi. How is that a man who, a year ago was good enough to play for India is not good enough to play for his zone? Besides, calling Yograj a Gavaskar yes man is indeed funny. If Sunil says Yograj is a good, talented player he must be. There is no one who knows better. Fate has indeed been very cruel to the Haryana seamer. Let us hope that justice is done and Yograj is given his chance.

DELPAK GOEL,
Bangalore.

YOGRAJ SINGH is trying to scandalise Bedi who, incidentally, is India's highest wicket taker. This type of attitude on the part of Yograj does no good at all, to his own reputation.

S S MANEKSHAW,
Hyderabad.

IT is a pity that in our present cricket set up, a player in one season finds a place in the national team and is out of his zonal side in the next. Even if Yograj's outcry in your October 6 issue is half true, the injustice done to him is nothing short of injustice to the game of cricket itself.

And this man, Bedi, the most visible offender of the whole affair, is only undoing his on-the-field achievement by his off-the-field activities. With all due respect to this truly great player, one is pained to note he only hurls out fire when he decides to open his mouth. Or is it his secret desire of being in the news? If that is so, then my advice to him is to find some legitimate way of doing it.

J K BHAGCHANDANI,
Delhi.

Indispensable

I ENJOYED Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi's article in the issue of September 9, explaining that it was the absence of Greg Chappell which made all the difference between England and Australia. Truly, the presence of Chappell has always had a tremendous influence on his team-mates. They are confident that even if they are dismissed cheaply the great Chappell will stand firm and give his side the runs they need.

SANJEEV MEHTA,
Calcutta.

Due to unavoidable circumstances we had failed to give due credit to the Willis article in the September 23 issue of Sportsworld. *The article was courtsey* Wisden Cricket Monthly—*Editor.*

Good result

THE Fourth Asian Track and Field Championship ended well for India. At least, that is what the medal tally shows. A satisfactory improvement on the two gold, three silver and eight bronze medals in Tokyo in 1979. But, a comparison of our 1981 tally with that of the Japanese and Chinese provide no room for euphoria.

Surely there is scope for a lot of improvement. Maybe, we could have added another couple of golds if the likes of P T Usha and Suresh Babu had been present. Still the Seoul (1975) tally of 9-5-5 is better than the 1981 tally of 5-5-9. Sabir Ali, as expected, captured the gold in the decathlon event, but his tally of 7253 points was far short of his Patiala trials tally of 7358. The national record is still held by Suresh Babu (7380). All the same, this young athlete from Northern Railway is a sure bet for the Delhi Asiad. Gopal Saini, Chand Ram, Rajan and

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Geeta Zutshi were the other athletes who came out with golden performances though Geeta's timing of 2 mins, 8.3 secs in the 800 m was 1 13 secs slower than her national record. Saini and Chand Ram created meet records and that augurs well. Though Rajan won the gold in the 800 m, his timing doesn't come close to that of his illustrious predecessor, Sriram Singh But given the encouragement, this hard-working and ambitious young athlete will surely rise to the top. Of course, Saini, Geeta and Rajan deserve special praise for being selected to represent Asia in the World Cup

But after the championship, it is perhaps time to ask some questions About one third of the Indian squad were officials Figuratively, 14 officials accompanied a team of 31 athletes. It is only well known that most of these 14 do not have even a scant knowledge of the sport. If a Shivnath Singh had been sent in place of one of the officials, we could have added another medal to our kitty. And, Bhaktawar Khambatta, after a lot of jostling, was sent on a no-cost-to-Government basis, though the Government has now agreed to reimburse the expenses incurred by her sponsor, the Railways.

So, we are placed in an unenviable position in which the Government cannot afford to send a budding athlete but has enough funds to send dozens of soapy-headed officials. What type of sports administrators do we have? The fact that, even with such men at the helm, our athletes are able to bring back laurels for our country is the only silver lining amidst the black clouds that hover over their heads

P. S MONY,
Trivandrum

Pleasure

ONCE again television viewers had the pleasure of hearing the views of the two masters, Pataudi and Raj Singh, about the forthcoming India England series Both laid stress on the fact that the wickets will be the key to the chances of both sides With India having a good batch of spinners coming up, one can see no reason why the wickets should not be so prepared as to favour our spinners. Every country has the right to prepare wickets to suit her own bowlers and England have no cause for complaint if India exercises this right

Secondly, the England team, though at full strength, is not one to be feared Our team is equally strong As such, we can afford to experiment with our batting order, with an eye on the tour of England in 1982 Sunil Gavaskar can play as number five during the home series He will boost up our weak middle order and will be at the crease by the time the second new ball is taken This will enable a third opener to be unearthed The Sunil-Chetan partnership will no doubt be disturbed, but with due respect to Vishwanath, it could also be said that India will stand to gain if Vengsarkar is appointed vice-captain to Sunil Dilip will then be able to take over in the late 80's

Like all other countries, India should field separate teams for the Tests and one-day matches, because very few are adept at both types of cricket

VIJAY S CHORGADE,
Pune

Error

KINDLY refer to the article on my daughter, Bhuwaneswari Kumari, in the September 30 issue of *Sportsworld* I wish to bring to your notice that I am not the secretary of the DLTA as has been mentioned in the article Though I am actively associated with tennis activities in the capital and the State association, the portfolio of the secretary is held by Prem Kishore

YASHWANT SINGH,
Delhi

Complaint

THOUGH I find *Sportsworld* a very fine sports magazine, I have a complaint It is about your publishing controversial articles—Bedi-Gavaskar, East Bengal-Iranians—in your magazine These articles always do more harm than good If more informative and statistical articles are used instead of those articles, I think it would be better.

TOM ALTER,
Bombay.

ALL IN THE GAME

FELLED

Like a log

It was a bizzare and shameful end to one of the most revered sporting events of England. Mike Watkins, hooker for Newports was sent off the field by Black Heath's chairman John Williamson who took over charge from George Crawford, the official arbiter when the latter had to withdraw with a hamstring injury

The incident occurred when an off-side was signalled. Watkins rushed towards French and the next moment the latter was seen going down like a log badly punched on the jaw Williamson dismissed Watkins immediately

A former Cardiff forward, Watkins whose past record is not without blemish is unlikely to escape punishment for failing to behave himself It may be a lengthy suspension or something even more severe.

MISFORTUNE

On the first tour

Misfortune occurs in everybody's life But at times some people suffer it when they are on the threshold of embarking upon a promising career Bruce Malouf, a front-row forward of Australia broke his right leg close to the ankle while training at Teddington. He was on his first tour of Britain.

The accident occurred towards the end of the training session as the ball was being won from a ruck But, unfortunately, what happened was not immediately apparent According to Alec Hemming, the RFU's liaison officer: "The training session was almost over when Bruce went down Some one, apparently nearby heard a crack, so I am told, but it was not immediately obvious that Bruce had broken a leg. He was hurried to hospital at once."

Peter Yarranton, the general manager of the Lensbury Club and a member of the RFU executive body, said: "Fortunately we have a fully-equipped medical centre at the club, and before the injured player was taken to hospital with a nasty break above the ankle, he could be treated by doctors here."

After treatment Malouf will recover, no doubt But will the damage he has suffered at a very significant juncture of his career be ever repaired—the question haunted every mind. But nobody knew that the answers would soon come from the man himself who has suffered the misfortune

" that's life I will be back... I hope How about five years time", said Malouf with a broad grin Moving to a spot on a rugby pitch he pointed downwards and added "That's where it happened That's where my tour ended " But surely not his determination and aspirations

ARSENAL

Nothing known

In the UEFA Cup second round, Arsenal was paired with Winterslag of Belgium But when the latter's club officials came to learn about that they had to search for a map and express in wonder "We knew nothing about Arsenal at all We only see English football on television and I cannot remember Arsenal playing recently We have gathered from their European record that they must be a good club though "

No wonder, Winterslag is a suburb 20 miles from the West German and Dutch border in the mining province of Limburg. Maybe an obscure place in the world atlas, but the players are not less enthusiastic "We want to enjoy ourselves during the match against Arsenal," said one of their representatives.

FROM AMBITIONS

To injury

How ambitious should a man be? It surely depends on the individual Or else how does one explain the fact that a man wants to break a record he has created minutes before? Tony Williams, of Rickmansworth, had earlier done two north-south runs in his powerboat, and one south-north run over the measured kilometre in the 2.4-litre engined OZ circuit catamaran, achieving an average over the best two runs of 137.958 mph. This beat M. Werner's record for the unlimited powered OZ class by nearly three mph.

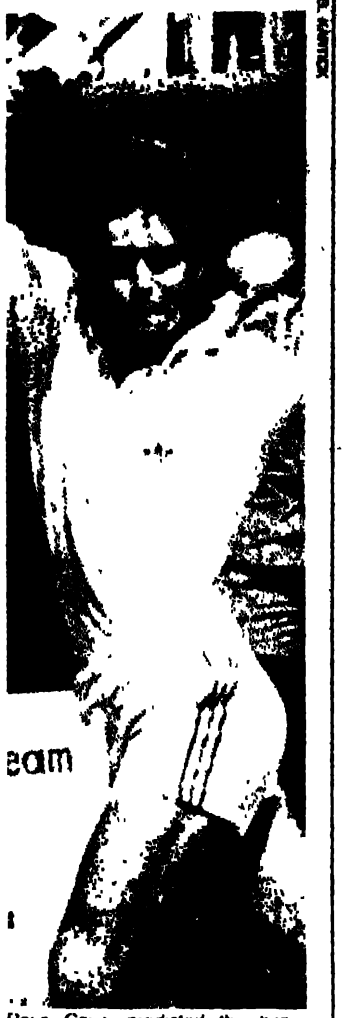
But on further trying to improve his effort, William crashed at over 130 mph and is now nursing a dislocated shoulder and a broken finger. When he was on a north-south run, the wind got under his boat, which went up vertically and fell on its back, forcing Williams to lay off the boat for the time being

BAD CALLS

Order of the day

Remember the John McEnroe Rod Frawley encounter in the semi-final of the Wimbledon? The repeat was staged at Sydney in the Custom Credit Indoor Championship This time, however, it was the Australian Frawley, who reacted in an unprecedented fashion to a series of bad linecalls by deliberately setting a trap for Kevin Bolton, secretary of the Australian Umpires Association. With McEnroe leading 3-1, 40-15 in the first set, Frawley pretended to accept a McEnroe serve that had been called out. When Bolton went along with this and gave the game to the American, Frawley turned on the umpire and accused him of succumbing to player intimidation.

"Of course I was wrong to do it, but after the injustices I have suffered these past two weeks, I just wanted to make an example of him. I was challenging the guy's competence and he fell for it. Like most of the officiating in Australia this season, it was a disgrace," said Frawley later. Although Frawley's tactics had worked, McEnroe joined the Australian in demanding that the umpire be replaced But the referee, Bill Gilmour stood by his official and ' ordered the players to continue playing.



Ross Case -predicted the happenings

That was not the end of the trouble at the Horden Pavilion that day There were more bad calls when McEnroe along with his partner, Peter Fleming beat their colleagues Roscoe Tanner and Elliot Teltscher. McEnroe was baited by the spectators and he protested After that what happened really takes the cake The elderly umpire forgot the score, called it wrong several times and was also abused by the crowd ' By that time I was just embarrassed for him The whole thing was a big joke," said McEnroe And all these reactions were predicted by the normally well-mannered Ross Case, who had warned that eruptions were inevitable if the standard of linecalling and umpiring did not improve. How right he was!

Sportsworld Exclusive

McEnroe: a true patriot

GEORGE K GEORGE reveals from New York the off-court aspects of the number one player of tennis today

TWO weeks ago John McEnroe was fined for racket abuse and was warned against arguing with the officials in an international tournament in Australia

A fortnight before that his big booster Arthur Ashe confessed that he was embarrassed by the behaviour of John and his doubles partner Peter Fleming during the doubles of the Davis Cup semi finals

A month before that, John banged his racket into a television microphone during an argument with the umpire broke its string and earned a fine at the semi finals of the US Open against Vitas Gerulaitis

That was soon after John Patrick McEnroe (Jr) had the nerve to call the sacred Wimbledon establishment the "pits" and its referee an "incompetent fool," while performing another racket breaking ritual—during his match with Tom Gullickson Consequently, he was denied the honorary membership of the All England Club, making him the first ever champion with that dubious distinction The invitation for the championship dinner also was 'politely withdrawn John requested to be excused from the formal dinner but was willing to make the ceremonial acceptance speech The club said, 'No speech no dinner" John was willing to attend the dinner provided he could bring two Irish friends as guests No guests said the club officials And John celebrated the victory his own way

Wimbledon bosses recommended a $13 250 fine for him The Men s International Pro Tennis Council decided to reduce it to $2 250 for abuse of officials and $5 000 for aggravated behaviour Wimbledon 1981 was a nightmare for him But he had the last laugh "The bottom line is winning he said Indeed it was

The British Press nicknamed him Superbrat during the 1979 Wimbledon He is the most vain ill tempered petulant and loudmouth that the game of tennis has ever known wrote one of them

But Arthur Ashe US Davis Cup captain and former Wimbledon champion believes that John McEnroe is the most talented tennis player ever

That is John McEnroe—a sign of contradiction To those who know him off court he is a loyal and humble friend To those who have seen him only in big tournaments or through the eyes of the media, he is an ill mannered 'Brat

John McEnroe does not condone his own behaviour "A lot of times I tell myself I m not going to argue, no matter what Then I go ahead and do it any way ' He also admits that he has to change Very few will give him credit for even trying

There are occasions when John McEnroe controls himself His behaviour was perfect at the Davis Cup quarter finals against the Czechs At the US Open this year, he had very little argument with the officials The irony is that when John McEnroe behaves the crowds go home disappointed It becomes restless and uncomfortable It waits for the outburst impatiently John is aware of this too



McEnroe with the Wimbledon trophy—a true American youth with he Davis Cup blazer on

Seldom does McEnroe argue without reason. But when he feels that injustice is being done to him, he just cannot keep quiet Perhaps his background has something to do with it "I was brought up to fight for everything," he says. "My father's that way He gets upset. I'm sure that has a lot to do with my personality. When you grow up in that kind of environment, there is no way you can backout on your emotions I just can't hide it like Borg. I've accepted that it's impossible for me to do that. All I can do is work on keeping myself under control, trying not to be offensive, trying to ignore people who want to bug me "

WIMBLEDON hates the guts of this 22-year-old For John, nothing is sacred—not even Wimbledon At last year's Wimbledon semi-final, against Connors, he protested a call quite strongly, "not here, you don't do that at Wimbledon on Centre Court," Jimmy admonished him But for John McEnroe trust is the same even on the Centre Court.

Even his worst critics will agree that John McEnroe is true to himself He will fight hard for a point that belongs to him But he will also fight for his opponent In his Davis Cup match against Thomas Smid, he sent a ball flying to give the Czech a point that was called against him

John McEnroe is not a phony He will not hide his true feelings to please the aristocratic club crowd He is not a neat or elegant dresser He loves black and red His table manners are not perfect His locker is often in a mess In England many call him a "punk" But he is one of the brightest and most intelligent sportsmen today He knows his priorities and goes after them with dedication and passion

The Press has not been fair to John McEnroe He was right when he said after his first Wimbledon appearance, "I was 18 when I went to Wimbledon for the first time and they expected me to act like a 30-year-old "

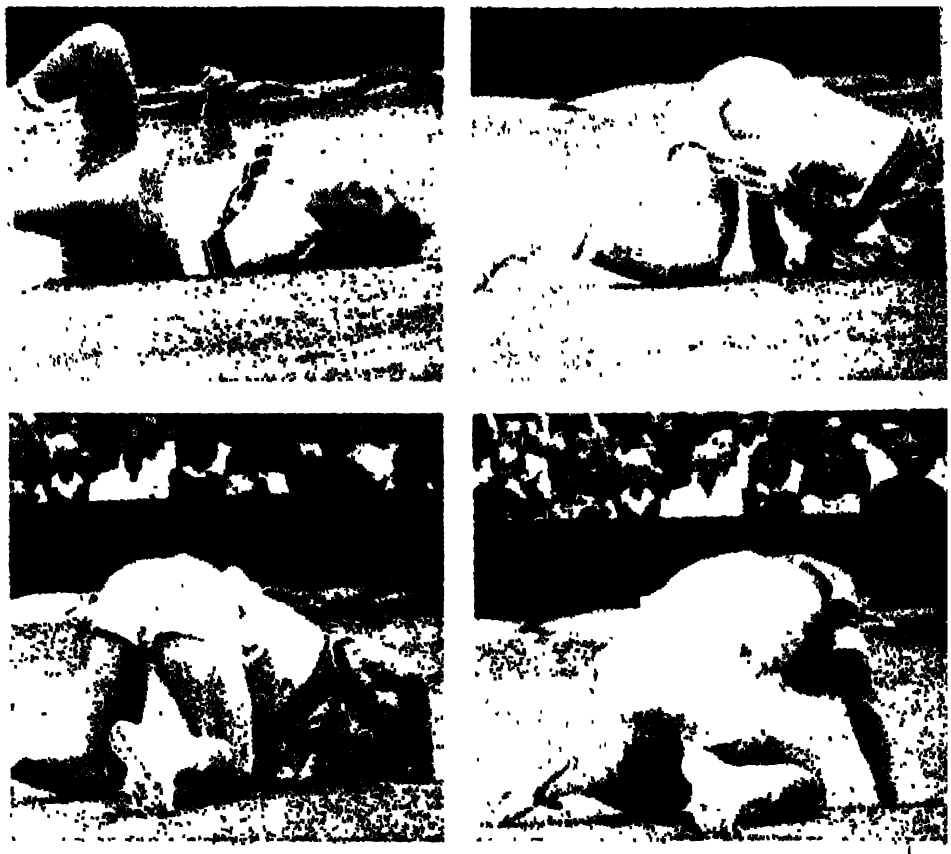
This is what the Wimbledon crowd, the foreign Press and many fans all over the world have not realised. John McEnroe went to Wimbledon when he was a typical American teenager in his first year of college He was wild, crazy and fun-loving like any other teenager. Suddenly there he was in the limelight He just could not handle it the way the Press and the conservative club members wanted it

"All of a sudden, it was like everybody wanted to talk to me, where nobody gave a darn about me before Bang, suddenly it was all there, people wanting to write about me, people offering me wild-card entries for tournaments, people waiting to meet me all the time, it really flipped me out By the time I got to Stanford that fall, I was so tired, so mentally gone, I couldn't face the tennis court for six weeks," he recalls

Sudden stardom was too much for a shy young man of his temperament. Shy? John McEnroe? The world may find it hard to believe But he is People who knew him at Trinity High School, New York, and at Stanford University vouch for it So do his neighbours and the players in the pro-circuit Take him seriously when he says, "I'm really very shy and quiet like Bjorn, but not so quiet in the tennis court sometimes " Gene Meyer says what John McEnroe is "one of the shyest people" he knows "Off court he is neither vocal nor harsh," says the fellow New Yorker

Friends say John McEnroe is very loyal Even after shooting up to World No 1, by winning the singles and doubles at Wimbledon and the US Open and thereby becoming the first ever top rank in singles and doubles, John is the same to his old friends He would rather go to a local pub to drink with childhood friends, than to appear in star-studded discos with Vitas Gerulaitis and Ilie Nastase And his friends always defend him

"John puts the biggest emphasis on fairness and honesty, and that is why he cannot handle Wimbledon," says his doubles partner Peter Fleming John's childhood friend and neighbour Mary Carillo, herself a top professional and broadcaster, says, "I know this



No one can accuse McEnroe of not giving his best A sequence during the Wimbledon final against Borg



McEnroe argues with the referee—no unjustified decision is taken lying down



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for sure: John's got morals, and ethics. I've never seen him sell himself out for anything."

This is why the "Superbrat" turned down over $600,000 minimum guarantee for playing a tournament in South Africa—an offer which could have brought him up to a million. That is why John faithfully shows up for all Davis Cup matches for the United States. A number of pros refuse to play for the US team because there is very little money in it. Any day, John McEnroe could make more money than them. But, for him loyalty to his country is the greater priority. At Wimbledon and the US Open, he wore the US Davis Cup jacket as he walked up for the presentation ceremony.

The same loyalty has been in him while at school too. Even when he was piling up National Junior Championship in singles and doubles, he would always find time to play the school tournaments. At Stanford University too, the university team meant so much to him. "He is the best team player I've ever seen," says Stanford coach Dick Gould. "He was the one who consoled the guy who lost. He boosted the team with his spirit." This spirit is the driving force behind John McEnroe's agonies and ecstasies. He is a competitor—a tough one. For him, to play is to win. No one can accuse him of being unfair. He is tense and intense. He is aggressive and bursting with youthful impatience and energy. He is hard and demanding on himself, as he is on the world.

He seldom smiles even when he is off-court. "It's not that I want to look unpleasant or anything," he says. "It's the way I always thought that if I smiled I'd break my concentration. Even if I see things which I think are funny I don't want to get myself loose. If I relax completely then I'm in trouble."

JOHN is a perfectionist. He sacrifices his youthful years for the game he loves. In the process, he has lost the opportunity of leading a private life. He just cannot stand around and applaud the shots of his opponents. That is not the type of tennis he has seen while growing up as a pro. He is a product of the ATP circuit, and not of Wimbledon. To him, as to most pros today, tennis is not just a pastime, it is their profession, their way of life. Their emotions, philosophies and life has become part of their game. They just cannot draw a line between their personal life and professional life.

The world just does not try to understand that John McEnroe was only 18 when he first earned the wrath of Fleet Street. Today he is only 22. The world expects him to be Bjorn Borg and Arthur Ashe. John helplessly admits that he just can't be that way.

John McEnroe (Sr.), a lawyer who manages his son's finances, spends a lot of time defending his client. But he was not far from truth when he says, "John is a major talent and he deserves much more attention to that and much less to his temper. If he plays a great five-hour match, even if he behaves at his worst he may take four or five minutes of people's time. More often, he'll just make some fleeting protest. But that is what people will talk about, instead of hours of fine tennis."

Moments after his Wimbledon win, as he walked into the dressing room, he told American television viewers just one thing. "I'm not a terrible guy." John meant it, and America believed it. But it will take the Lords of Wimbledon and Fleet Street to understand what an American youngster means nothing terrible when he says "you are the pits." Until that the crowds and officials will wait around the courts all over the world, ready to react to the tantrums of the "Superbrat".



McEnroe exults after his victory against Borg in the US Open

The farce of coaching

Ever since the camps started, the build-up for the Asiad football competition has come in for severe criticism. SARAJIT DEB investigates

THE All-India Football Federation has again come out with an announcement after the next Nationals, 30 35 players will be selected and they will be kept in various camps and before the Asian Games, they will not be allowed to assist their respective clubs "After the exhibition matches with the Russian team that will take place in December, we will select a few players for the camp The respective State associations will be requested to give them as much rest as possible We will even request them not to include these players in the team for the Nationals The rest of the players will be selected after the Nationals We do not want to make too many changes in the squad, but if it is absolutely necessary we will do it The last tournament before the Asian Games will be the IFA Shield or the Darjeeling Gold Cup If anyone plays exceptionally well, we will consider him," assured the AIFF secretary Ashok Ghosh One has heard all these statements before, a number of times, but they have not been adhered to by the very same officials

Let us travel back some 16 months The last general body meeting of the All-India Football Federation had just been completed at Cuttack The newly-elected secretary, Ashok Ghosh, had told me "I will strive to better not just the standard of football in India, but the very atmosphere in which it is played We have associations warring with each other, officials flouting justice and above all, players getting too big for their boots, who need to be taught to walk—all over again."

"We have named several coaches and they will try and get the best available talent in the country so that their potential is nurtured We will try and get the best available side for the 1982 Asian Games and try to get the best possible performance from them If it is feasible, the players will be enjoined to stay together till the Asiad is over and thereafter till the AIFF decides to allow them to represent States or clubs A similar procedure will be followed with a junior outfit, which will be treated as the second string, to take over when the first batch gets over the hill In all cases, the AIFF squad will be asked to participate in various tournaments in the country to get tuned as a team"

The AIFF officials took a very long time to get things done Before the last Nationals at Cuttack I again met the secretary and had asked him about the plans for the Asian Games He said "We are seriously thinking about the Asian Games The tournaments which are being played will be of vital importance We are sending 'spotters' to all the tournaments and will be sending a few to the coming Nationals They have been asked to submit the names of promising young players and also those who are at their peak now and have performed well They have also been asked to submit suggestions about the pattern of coaching that is to be undertaken"

One of the suggestions was that only players in the 18-25 age group should be considered for the camp, which should begin after the Nationals It was also felt that the players called for the camp should not be allowed to play either for their clubs or their offices for the next two years Leave facilities for them would also be provided At that time they had thought of introducing a resolution that would force the players to attend the camps—if one refused to join it, he would not be allowed to participate in any tournament

Subsequently, after the Nationals, for the first time in the history of Indian football, a coaching scheme had been organised with an eye to the future When the Cuttack Nationals had reached a climax, the bigwigs of the AIFF had met to decide on a suitable strategy for the preparation for the Asian Games After prolonged sessions that lasted two days, the AIFF agreed to an 18-month plan The AIFF wanted to ensure that interests of the national team received top priority It went along with one of the suggestions and decided that in the event of a player not reporting to a coaching camp, he would be barred not only from playing in the national team but also his State and club in those tournaments sanctioned by the federation. If a player was unable to join the camp owing to injury or illness, he would have to submit himself for an examination by the federation's medical panel before late admission

According to the plan, 62 players had been selected for the first phase, which got under way at Calcutta Right from the beginning the players' attitude was lukewarm—to say the least Only 46 had cared to attend the camp The rest had been given four days' allowance. From that time itself the AIFF had allowed things to get out of control

P.K Banerjee had been appointed



Maneckshaw watches the trainees at the Salt Lake camp

as the chief coach and he was assisted by Aroon Ghosh and S. Hakeem. In addition, there were two techincal directors in G Basha and J Kittu, who, together would be mainly responsible for the selection of the team.

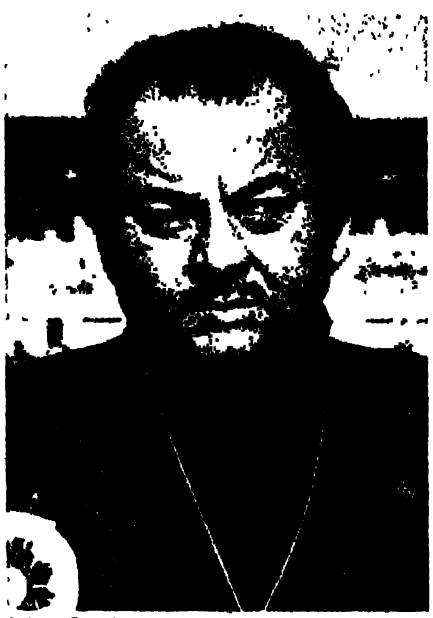
A WORD about the selection of the players in the first phase of the coaching camp. There were four notable absentees. Manjit Singh, Joseph Machado, Valentine Fernandes and Chinmoy Chatterjee While the first three had performed creditably during the Cuttack Nationals, Chinmoy had enjoyed good tournaments last year The basis of the selection was formed by spotters sent to all the major tournaments in the country Chinmoy and Machado had played extremely well in the Rovers and in addition, Chinmoy had also performed consistently in the Durand One might argue that the basis of the selection was the Nationals If that had been the case, how could one justify the inclusion of Prasun Banerjee and Subrata Bhattacharya in the camp? Both, along with Chinmoy, had not been included in the Bengal squad for the Nationals Chinmoy has proved himself on a number of occasions In the 1977 Nationals at Calcutta, he adapted himself competently to the role of a stopper after Pradip Choudhury was badly injured His original position is right wing-back, but last year he had played as a left wing-back to accommodate Premnath Philip in his original position

Manjit Singh was the only forward who shone in an individual capacity during the Santosh Trophy and it was he, for all practical purposes, who single-handedly brought glory to Punjab Even the Railway coach, and later the chief coach P K Banerjee, had admitted that Manjit made all the difference in the final The only thing that went against him was his age, but then, if he was still good, he should have been called for the camp

Machado's exclusion, likewise could not be justified Neither was the case of Valentine who played extremely well in the Nationals He had scored against both Bengal and Punjab moving up with the forwards As a left-half in the 4-3-3 formation, he had played his role very effectively But he did not find favour with the selectors

The setting up of the camp was just the start of the trouble What happened at the camp itself is now history Twenty-one stalwarts left the camp with a view to assisting their respective clubs They had been given to understand, by no less than the AIFF secretary Ashok Ghosh, that they would be allowed to do so provided they signed a bond forfeiting their place in the national side That was in mid-February, about a week after the camp had begun

The AIFF had decided that the fate of the players would be decided in the scheduled working committee meeting that was to take place at the end of March. However, there were pressures from several quarters, especially from the big clubs of Calcutta, to summon



Ashok Ghosh—promises made but not kept

an emergency meeting to decide the fate of the players The AIFF bowed down to the pressure and called the meeting a week after the exodus It was then decided that the players would be re-admitted on condition that they gave a voluntary declaration, within a scheduled date, that they would not play for any club from the date they were summoned to the camp to the date they were released from it

BUT the real problem was: Why were they allowed to leave the camp in the first place? It was then learnt that the decision to allow the players to leave the camp was taken in Calcutta in the face of the pressure of the "Big Three" clubs This was done despite the AIFF decision taken in Cuttack during the Nationals, that Asiad probables chosen for the camp would be barred from tournaments affiliated to the AIFF if they failed to join the camp or chose to leave it. According to informed sources, there was a move to oust the AIFF secretary for his blunder but he had somehow managed to survive. But it was clear to all and sundry that the AIFF step in allowing the players to leave the camp and then allowing them to play for local clubs was not just morally wrong but one that would have a crippling effect on the development of the game on healthy lines A far cry from the big promises the secretary had made about getting the very atmosphere right in which the game is played

The only way out seemed some sort of action that would not only allow the players to play gainfully for their clubs but to serve as examples as well Since the secretary had promised the players that no disciplinary action would be taken against those who chose to leave the camp, he was not expected to go back on his word At that time Field Marshal Maneckshaw had made a brief visit to Calcutta and when he had been questioned as to what action would be taken against those who had no intention of returning to the camp, he had assured· "Wait and see. Something has to be done And it will be done " But the irony is that we are still waiting for some action to be taken by the AIFF

But to take some positive action, the AIFF has to first decide what they really want That they failed to decide. First the deadline for the players to rejoin the camp was extended by four days That was done because the players had not decided till then what course of action they would take. Decisions taken at the emergency meeting after the exodus was rapidly changed It had been decided that those players reinstated in the camp would only be allowed to play in office league matches and not even in the Federation Cup. On the other hand, those players who had not left the camp would be allowed to assist their respective clubs in the Federation Cup It had been further decided that the players summoned would have to report to the camp, failing which they would not be allowed to play for any club under the federation nor in any registered tournament under the AIFF from the date of receipt of the summons unless able to show a valid reason for their absence which would satisfy the AIFF

Later, however, all the directives were changed, all in favour of the players. It was decided that should the players refuse to join the camp, the AIFF would only debar them from representing their State and the country However, they would be allowed to play for their respective clubs And if a player decided to join the camp, he will not be allowed to play for his club when the camp was in progress

All these decisions were changed to please the Big Three of Calcutta, and at the same time to ensure that N Vittal, the vice-president of the AIFF can be assured of a profit when the Federation Cup was staged at Madras, his State They knew that if the players were not allowed to participate in the Federation Cup, it would hamper the sales at the gates

At that time, East Bengal did not allow their players (Monoranjan Bhattacharya, Dilip Paul, Premnath Philip, Fareed, C D Francis, Amalraj, Thomas Mathews) to join the camp, they did not sign that they would be going back

After the AIFF released those players who had remained in the camp after the exodus, a fresh lot of 30 players were called But so incompetent was the AIFF that they failed to notify the new players that they would be required for the camp That was the main reason why only 13 players managed to report in time Further, they could not even arrange for the transport of the players, neither could they organise coaches from the camp to the playing ground, the distance being a mere two miles P K Banerjee and Aroon Ghosh had no other alternative but to make do with a makeshift strip of land in front of the camp instead

Another problem that kept cropping up was arranging leave for the players

Everything was being done on a verbal basis while the players were all along told that everything would be arranged One of the coaches, S Hakeem, had to leave the camp because of leave problems but that did not help the AIFF to wake up from the deep slumber that seemed to envelop the officials

The scene shifted to Madras, where the Federation Cup was staged The executive committee of the AIFF met, along with the technical committee (comprising P K Banerjee, Aroon Ghosh, S Hakeem, G Basha and J Kittu) The technical committee's opinion was sought as to whether it was possible for them to build a national side without the twenty-one deserters "They said it was not possible and only then did we ask them how many players they wanted from the 21 deserters," the AIFF secretary told me "We wanted to restrict it to the minimum and when they said that they needed at least seven players at a time, we agreed "

Ultimately the AIFF got the directive from the Government that they would have to suspend the players who do not join the camp in future But the AIFF continued doing injustice to the players who had remained loyal when the 21 players had left the camp There were several players from the big teams in Calcutta who had attended the coaching camp and therefore they could not play for the clubs



Joseph Machado—never knew whether he was called

in the initial matches of the Calcutta League After the coaching period, the players were scheduled to play a tournament in Dacca. But the AIFF failed to seek permission from the Government to make the trip and the selected players were left high and dry, though were assured that they would be called for the next camp and considered for the team that will go to Merdeka.

WHEN the camp started seven more players were called to reinforce the players already selected. Two days after these seven star players (they were among the 21 who had left the first camp) joined the training camp, two youngsters, Arup Das and Kartick Sett, were told that they were wanted by the respective clubs in Calcutta and they had the permission to leave the camp and play for their sides. If they were to be sent back, why were they called for the second camp? Was it that the players who were in the reckoning for the Indian team had slumped so badly that the AIFF officials decided to do away with them after watching them for just two or three days at the second camp? And when the team for the Merdeka was announced, all seven were in the list

So, all along though the AIFF knew that they could not do without the service of these players, they did not think it fit to call them to the camp Perhaps, if they had done so, there would have been pressure from the big clubs of Calcutta, which they didn't want to face (In the list was Monoranjan Bhattacharya, who had initially not signed to go back to the camp) The AIFF officials did not think it would help improve the understanding amongst the players if they had played together The priorities of the big clubs came before those of the country.

Then, the camp that was on for the

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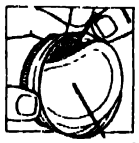
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preparation for the Merdeka was suddenly dissolved so that the players of Mohammedan Sporting (Bhaskar Ganguli, Prasun Banerjee, Bidesh Bose and Shabbir Ali) could assist their club in their last engagement of the League. Priyaranjan Dasmunshi, a vice-president of the AIFF had said that the players selected for the Merdeka would not be allowed to participate in the League, but that did stop the players from assisting their club. Here also the need of the club was placed before that of the country No one cared to think what would have happened had one of these players been injured while playing in that match Neither has there been any action taken against the players. "I was not in the country at that time, so I cannot enlighten you to what happened at that period," said Ashok Ghosh. "But one thing which has stuck me is that you are the first person who is enquiring about this matter. Perhaps if the Indian team had not done as well as they did at the Merdeka, it would have been a striking issue. It was for the committee to have decided what should have been done then "

The Indian team went to the Merdeka and did fairly well, having qualified for the semi-final before bowing out to a Brazilian team The day the team returned to Calcutta, they left for North Korea to play in a tournament It was while the team was playing at the Merdeka that they learnt that they would be going to North Korea But no one was sure of the teams that would be participating in the tournament But still the team was sent and without Soviet visas What happened at Moscow is now old hat And the teams which participated in the tournament were two sides of the host nation and a second-string Chinese team Yet we had to send our national team. What seems really funny is that the AIFF officials were not even aware of the teams which were participating "When the last meeting of the Asian Football Confederation took place, the president of the North Korean Football Association had assured me that a lot of countries will be taking part in the tournament We tried to contact them but failed. This is a new experience for us. From the next time, we have got to be sure which teams are coming before sending our side for such tournaments," said the AIFF secretary.

While the Indian team was playing in the North Korean tournament, a coaching camp was being conducted at Bombay, in which 43 players had been called but only 19 had cared to attend. Later it was learnt that the players from Goa did not get the information in time. The secretary had said that 10 players would be kept from the camp, for selection in the Indian team that would tour the Arab countries, and then play in the King's Cup at Bangkok. Two sessions of practice were conducted under the guidance of S.



Chinmoy Chatterjee—deprived all over again

Hakeem and S. Naeemuddin and in the course of the camp there were four trial matches. Since only 19 players had attended the camp, Chinmoy Chatterjee was forced to play as a stopper in these trial matches, along with Satyajit Ghosh of Railway Football Club of Calcutta Both had performed creditably but were not considered suitable by the selectors The technical committee, as mentioned earlier consists of P K Banerjee, Aroon Ghosh, S Hakeem, G Basha and J. Kittu According to reliable sources, only two of them were present at the meeting—Basha and Hakeem It was they who pulled the strings and saw that these two players from Bengal were dropped from the squad The reason?

IF one tries to go to the root cause for the exclusion of Chinmoy, one has to travel back a few years. When the Indian team left for Bahrain two years back, Basha was in charge of the team For some unknown reason the passport of Monoranjan Bhattacharya could not be found just before the tour and Chinmoy, the only other defender in the camp, had been told to keep himself ready for the trip But the day before the team left, Basha, who was the coach included M M Jacob in the team in place of Monoranjan At that time Chinmoy had asked. why was a half-back being taken in place of a defender? Basha didn't like the question and has definitely not forgotten it When the camp for the pre-Olympics got underway, Chinmoy was turned out on the very first day by Basha, again. And it was Basha who saw to it that Chinmoy was not considered for the Indian team

What really is of significance is that no disciplinary action has been taken till date against the players who did not attend the Bombay camp. Among them a striking example is that of Joseph Machado The camp was called from October 1 Machado did not think it fit to attend the camp Instead, he was assisting his side, East Bengal, at the Darjeeling Gold Cup. The reason given by him was very simple—he was not informed by his club And what had the club to say to this? Another very logical answer. That they were not informed by anyone They had read the news in the newspaper but they were not willing to accept that as the Gospel truth So who was to blame? On the face of it, the Indian Football Association

"We have asked the IFA to explain what had happened We cannot take any disciplinary action against Machado unless we know what took place. For the time being what we had done is that we did not allow him to the camp. That means he cannot be considered to represent India for the time being. Let us see what the IFA has to say and only then can we (the executive committee) take any decision," said the AIFF secretary Ashok Ghosh

Then there was the case of Narendra Gurung of Border Security Force It may be mentioned here that he was asked to join the camp of October 12 but like Machado, he was assisting his club at a later date "When Narendra came to the camp he told us that he was not allowed to leave the team We decided that it was not his fault and so we allowed him entry into the camp We have asked the Punjab Football Association for an explanation Again the committee will have to decide what action should be taken against the PFA or BSF," said Ashok Ghosh

That is if what Narendra has said is true "On that score we are sure Otherwise his job in the BSF will be in danger," assured the AIFF secretary What will happen if the same thing happens with a player who plays for a club, not an office side, like Mohun Bagan or East Bengal? There they do not have a job and then it will be the word of the player against that of the club. The AIFF will surely be left in a very tricky situation if that happens

The AIFF secretary has repeatedly said that they want to build the best possible side for the Delhi Asian Games But till now the whole camp business does not seem to be going very smoothly And for that the officials can only blame themselves. When the last Asian Games were held in the country in 1951, we won the gold After a period of 30 long years, the Games will be held at the Capital Since 1951 we have slipped a long way, but can we hope that history will repeat itself? Perhaps we are being a bit too optimistic But at least we can make a last-ditch effort, after all, there is no harm in doing that But for that the people who control the game will have to overcome their pettiness and be totally dedicated to their job

Australia can beat Pakistan

JOHN BENAUD, writing from Sydney, rates Australia's chances of overcoming Pakistan quite bright in the latter's current tour. But, he says, the West Indians—who will also play three Tests—may pose an entirely insurmountable threat.

IF you are a cricket fan who does not mind a little intrigue, then Australia is a good place to be in right now This is because Australian cricket has problems and not only do those people that matter seem to have little idea about solutions, but they are saying nothing

There is the matter of the captaincy, of course. Some want Kim Hughes They are the investors in the future Others want Greg Chappell reinstated They are the sensible ones

There is the matter of night cricket. That gentleman, who once said "Cricket was meant to be played with a red ball in God's daylight", may at last have his wish granted Engineers here in Sydney have discovered the huge light towers erected a few summers back may fall down on spectators if the winds get great enough The result is, many decks of lights have had to be removed to lessen the weight stress Nobody wants to admit it, but the whole night cricket programme for the summer is in doubt TV magnate Kerry Packer's millions of dollars invested in pulling ratings is in such danger that observers are suggesting he will even foot the bill for a new bank of lights to be erected along the roof edge of the Bradman and Noble stands.

Other mysteries, those currently taxing the minds of the national selectors, are the combinations in Tests and one-day games that could restore Australia's cricketing creditibility after an England season that in the end rated fairly close to the legendary "Big Fat Zero" Already, the TV advertisements tell us about the visitors, the Pakistanis and the West Indians The advertisement imploring viewers to roll up to the Pakistan matches has the theme of a stalking tiger The West Indies well, I suppose even ad-men run out of ideas it's Calypso cricket again

In the face of that challenge, we have Australian flags and an earnest message from the great Lillee who tells us all of the honour of being among the country's best twelve cricketers fighting for flag and country, of course Still, that's cricket here these days—the 'Big Sell'

Sadly, it all got off to a bad start when the Pakistani played West Au-

Greg Chappell—will he be reinstated?



strike a few days after getting off their plane in Perth. Not many turned up. If they had, they would have been bored. Scores: Pakistan—nine for 380 declared. West Australia—545 Pakistan two for 92

It was a match that proved the Perth strip to be probably the best for batting in the world It showed Kim Hughes' flaws dramatically again—his innings of 50 plus was described as "Russian roulette" His refusal to close after West Australia passed the Pakistanis effectively killed spectator interest And Pakistan, by batting into the second day after scoring 338 on the first, enforced the attitude that touring teams coming to Australia on these twin tours will grab every opportunity to acclimatise. Even if it means helping to kill the game.

But what it proved most was what every Australian cricket fan has been hoping. Australia can beat Javed Miandad's men For this was a West Australia without the mighty Lillee and the new Australian fast bowling hero Alderman Late withdrawals they were. Probably after they saw the flat pitch And it is true Pakistan were without Sarfraz and Sikander, but Miandad must have been depressed that the attack he did have could do no better against the State batting

IT is worth noting that but for veteran Majid's century in the middle order, the tourists would have struggled against an attack led by well, moderate medium-pacers like Baker, Malone and Porter. Now that Majid is down the order and Sadiq is back at home, Lillee and co.,—that is Pascoe, Lawson, Alderman, Thomson—will relish bowling at the inexperienced Mansoor and Rizwan-uz-Zaman Even perhaps Mudassar, of greater experience in the Test arena, but yet to realise the potential many feel he has.

Pakistan, it seems, may have to count on its middle order to drag it through any crisis The oldies, Zaheer, Majid and Miandad, flashy, but now that he is captain, may be more responsible And the developing Wasim Raja. The problem arises if the openers fail Not only will the middle order be exposed to the new ball far too

Croft—nasty



Kim Hughes—flaws evident at Perth





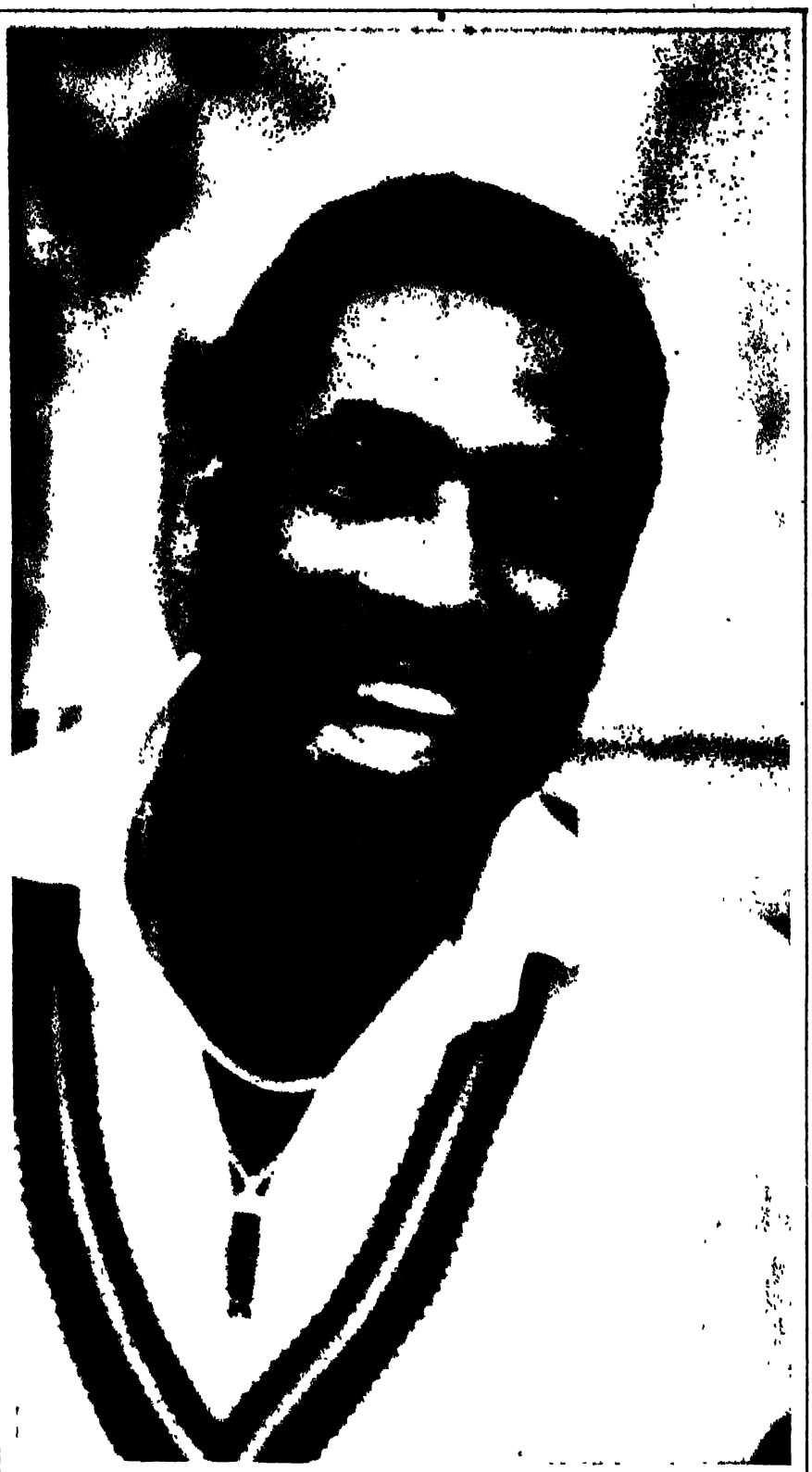
Javed Miandad—depressed

soon, but Majid—once a great eye player—may have to be rocketed back up the order Much of Pakistan's pre-tour thinking would then be destroyed

More than likely though they will manage to draw with the Australians, who have a few problems themselves There are fitness doubts with Pascoe and Lawson And let's face it, Australia will be reliant on pace The spinners—Higgs, Bright and say the inexperienced Sleep—never give the impression they will win matches The batting, though, will be strong with comebacks from Greg Chappell and the reliable Bruce Laird, the opener

This series shapes as bat versus bat The limited over series will be as close Certainly, Australia accounted easily for India last summer But, in assessing their chances against Pakistan, it may be wiser to use the matches against New Zealand as a yardstick. Australia scraped in Reason New Zealand had a disciplined side well used to limited-over cricket because many of their players do the England County circuit There are some as well-credentialled in this Pakistani team

GIVEN Australia's chances against this Pakistani team in the process of rebuilding, it would be just short of stupid to suggest the West Indies could be beaten There is that feeling of *deja-vu* about the West Indies today It is all like a TV replay—and we have



Richards—very much there

enough of those here It begins with that sort of hopeless hope expressed by the optimists. The theory is the West Indies can be beaten because they are getting on Or because Viv Richards must have a bad season soon Or that the young players are less experienced than Australia's young players The rather chilling fact is that the West Indies have played seventeen Tests. They won four and drew 12. They lost one, a disaster in New Zealand which followed that last Australian tour, and which was notable for the complaints about umpiring.

The fact is, they have more fast bowlers than ever before. They are Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall, Sylvester Clarke, and Colin Croft. They say



Garner—respected rival

Roberts is past it Maybe just having a rest before the Australian tour They worry about Holding's shoulder They have been for seasons now, but he seems to keep coming up Garner, they respect, but they think Marshall is a novice Clarke, they have never seen But he is quick and bouncy and we presume, aggressive After all, he did hurl a brick into the crowd on the Pakistan tour And there is Croft Quite nasty Croft, not only because of his peculiar action which makes sighting difficult, but because he's mean enough to try to hurt the batsmen

The fact is, they still have Haynes and Greenidge and Richards And Lloyd There are some new boys to Test cricket, but only in terms of experience and measured against



Pascoe—doubts about his fitness

those great names –Gomes and Bacchus. And the fact is they have a "secret weapon" When he was chosen for this tour, the experts cried "Harold who?" Harold Joseph, that's who A spinner with a difference from Trinidad A man who can weave a web of intrigue around batsmen who cannot pick which way his tricking fingers will make the ball jump He is a freak, just like the Australians, Iverson and Gleeson just like the famed Ramadhin

For Australia, the sad fact is this West Indian combination looks no weaker than any that has come across our TV screens in the last five or six summers And older well, that is surely wiser If Greg Chappell is captain, he will have to content himself with stretching Pakistan And that will depend a lot on just how the Australian selectors approach the task of refurbishing a side that went to England in the rebuilding stage

For Australia, the time has come to pick a combination and stick with it – not drop players who may fail at the second attempt In other words, a return to past selection methods where a player was at least given the best part of a series to settle

JOHN EMBUREY



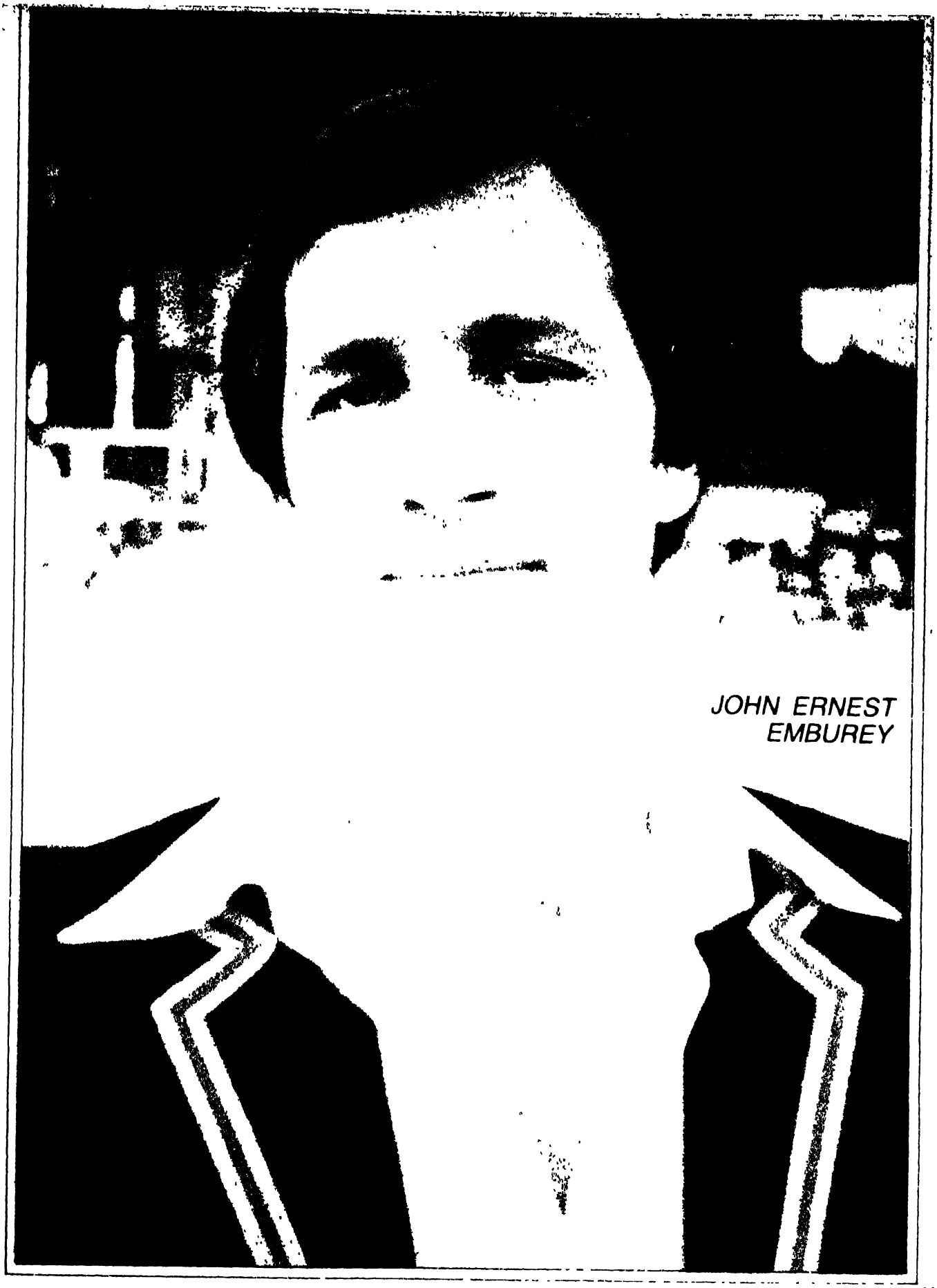
IN Australia, three winters ago, England won the series 5-1. But there was a stage when the visitors, only 2-1 ahead, were desperate right up to the final afternoon. Australia were 38 for none, chasing 205 and party to affairs, but Emburey and Geoff Miller got to work and the rest was deceptively easy. Prior to this, in the match against South Australia, competed with credit for a place in the Test XI. The tie clearly involved a play-off between Emburey and Edmonds, but with the former returning figures of 5 for 67, the future distinction had to be his.

In 1971, John Ernest Emburey was a junior wages clerk with the Amalgamated Union of Engineering workers, and quite resigned to a career with Honor Oak club in the Surrey championship, when a phone call from Don Bennett, the Middlesex coach, rescued him from this anonymity. He had earlier been informed by Surrey that his services would not be required, and as he recalls: "I came to the conclusion that it wasn't good enough. Surrey told me that I should get in touch with Middlesex because Fred Titmus was getting on a bit and I might have a better chance at Lord's. But I was so fed up that I didn't bother."

But even after being rescued, so to speak, by Middlesex, it was not until Titmus' retirement at the end of 1976 that his protege found a regular place in the side. Then came the break in June of the following year. He took seven for 36 against Cambridge and a week later captured five versus Yorkshire. In two years time he was in the England team—making his debut against New Zealand at Lord's—and though in and out of the Test squad a couple of times, he has now firmly established himself as his country's number one off-spinner.

Subsequently, he produced a score of 42 in the series, which confirmed his promise as a lower order wielder of the willow. Indeed, he has gone on to emphasise this point more than once in the recently concluded encounter for the Ashes. It was he who stood there amidst the ruins at Edgbaston, defying the Australian quicks as well as Ray Bright, who had a rare advantage in the match from a 'rough'.

Emburey is a tall man with a consequently high action. Thus far his tally of 44 wickets in 18 Tests does not suggest any exceptional penetration. But he is fast approaching his peak, and could be a force to reckon with on the few helpful tracks in India. Accuracy and a well-disguised away going ball have always distinguished his effort, and if anything, he has



JOHN ERNEST EMBUREY

further improved on these qualities lately.

Moreover, he is a fighter. The north of England is said to have a monopoly of mentally hard cricketers But in this respect, John Emburey, from the east end of London, with his cockney accent, is no exception Off the field, of course, he is amiable, shy and quite modest about his ability

But he is very keen on getting on with it as far as the tour of India is concerned as he, perhaps, sees in the



trip a whole new future He was, in fact overheard inquiring about Sunil Gavaskar, when the latter was in London during the summer, whether the wickets in India respond to spin the way they used to He was bitterly disappointed at not getting a bowl in the Jubilee Test, as the track on the occasion much to his surprise, turned out to be a seamer's paradise but is hoping that things will be better this time In any case, he is not to be underestimated

MIKE GATTING

TILL last summer, the appendage accorded to Michael William Gatting was 'a poor man's Botham'. But returning to the Test scene at Old Trafford, he tore this label to shreds, scoring a gutsy and violent innings of 55 at the expense of Clive Lloyd's 'pace quartet' He was not too successful in the West Indies but the runs have flowed quite prolifically against the Aussies, and he was one of the first to get the nod for the tour of India

In the winter of 1979-80, Gatting led a struggling Balmain Club to the top of Sydney ladder and tightened up his own game in the process. The major revision in his technique, in fact, has been that he plays the ball beside his pad instead of in front of it. But the real secret of his run-getting is his 'confidence' After his immense failure during the tour of Pakistan and New Zealand in 1978-79, most people felt that he would take several years to recover For comparison, Ken Barrington took four years to overcome his two early Test match setbacks. But Gatting, quite wisely, started paying less attention to his bowling, and this paid rich dividends

Born on June 6, 1957, stout and bearded, Gatting is an excellent example of courage and determination bearing fruit He is not a 'natural', but



a typical product of the English professional system. Yet, he delivers the goods all right For instance, one of his first strokes in that 'comeback' innings at Old Trafford was a backfoot drive to the extra cover fence off Michael Holding It was probably the shot of the match.

Indeed, hooking is very much a part of his repertoire And he has been seen to fearlessly execute this stroke against the fastest of bowling On a few occasions this has also resulted in his downfall for a willy operator like Denis Lillee has fooled him with a slower ball But more often than not he has left the square leg region bruised and bleeding

Gatting's aggregate of 618 in 14 Test matches, however, does not indicate a prodigious success, and he still does not have a Test hundred to his name In fact, it is fair to say, that his talent and technique still leaves a bit to be desired He has a rather high back lift, and his down-swing, though much straighter than it used to be, is still not perfect But what he lacks by way of correctness He compensates with a rare candour And he is unquestionably a splendid fielder

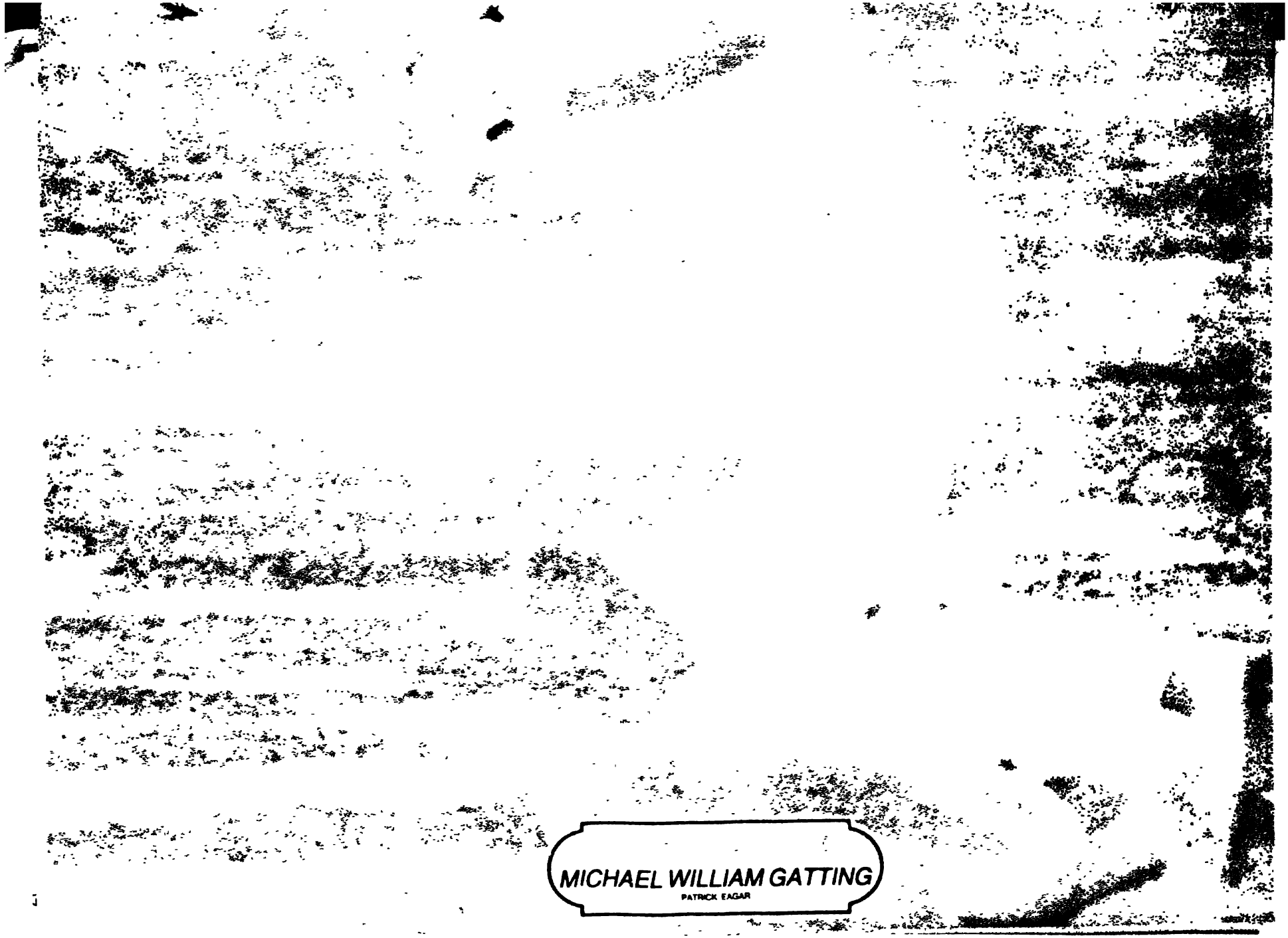




One question likely to be answered about him in course of the visit to India is on his effectiveness against spin In the three series that he has played since his return, he has not quite faced the rest of an incisive spin attack, and indeed, did not appear to be very comfortable when Ray Bright posed the odd query So how will he fare against Doshi, Yadav and Shastri on, say, a traditional Eden Gardens track or for that matter anywhere else? Let us pause for a reply

What is more certain is that he will tour well, for he is an enthusiastic cricketer whose exuberance has an infectious effect on his team-mates When the chips are down, he'll be the last to give in Also, he won't be found wanting in terms of giving selfless encouragement to his colleagues




MICHAEL WILLIAM GATTING
PATRICK EAGAR

IRANI TROPHY

Shastri, Patil and Madan shine

THE despondent news on the second day, that the MCC tour is virtually off, robbed much of the glamour of the Irani Trophy match, which otherwise, rose to great heights in projecting the latent talents of youngsters like Ravi Shastri and Sandeep Patil and gave evidence of the resurrection of Madan Lal as one of the best all-rounders we have in the country today

There was, perhaps, a bad omen from the start as Gundappa Vishwanath the Rest of India skipper, Syed Kirmani and Yashpal Sharma reached just seven minutes before the start of the game. There was great confusion at the Nehru Stadium as the three stalwarts had missed the evening flight from Bombay and it was learnt that they were coming by bus after travelling the whole night Vishwanath came straight from the bus stand to the stadium for the toss



Ravi Shastri—new Irani Trophy record

Everything went wrong for the Rest of India when Vishwanath lost the toss and Sunil Gavaskar opted to bat first Kirmani had to do duty behind the stumps after staying awake for the whole night and Vishwanath did not go on to the field from the luncheon interval till tea, leaving the captaincy to Kapil Dev

Nevertheless, on a placid and lifeless wicket which provided very little bounce, the Ranji Trophy champions, with only one effective bowler in Ravi Shastri ripped through the strong batting line up of the Rest of India after amassing a formidable first innings total of 445 to lead by 184 runs in the first innings and win the Irani Trophy for the tenth time Gavaskar and Ghulam Parkar opened for Bombay Gavaskar was in fine form when in the third over of Batun Burman, he hit three successive fours that were a feast for the eyes At the other end, Kapil was bowling with fire on a wicket that gave no help to the pacemen

At 63 for no loss, after 20 overs, Vishwanath introduced spin with Doshi taking over from Kapil Dev But at the other end Burman, with a strained back, had to leave the field and Madan Lal was summoned But soon Gavaskar hoisted his fifty with a cover-drive off Madan Lal Madan Lal was bowling with perfect length and direction and it was only due to the technical excellence of Gavaskar that the Indian maestro could execute a couple of drives off Madan Lal But just when Sunil had reached his half century in only 68 balls, with the help of seven hits to the fence out of a total of 70, he was brilliantly caught at gully off Madan Lal when the India skipper played forward and offered a bat pad catch to Yadav

But, unlike the usual Gavaskar, he stood at the wicket and walked out only when umpire Rajen Mehra upheld Yadav's appeal Madan's consistency in length and direction paid rich dividends when in his ninth over he disposed off Ghulam Parkar to a bat pad catch at forward short-leg by Sanjeeva Rao at the score of 76 with Parkar having contributed 22

Thereafter came the perfect pair of Vengsarkar and Sandeep Patil. While Vengsarkar preferred to wait and settle down, painfully groping against Madan Lal and ruefully playing forward to Doshi's immaculate length, Sandeep Patil, with a much shorter back-lift, exhilarated the crowd right from the word 'go'

For Sandeep, there seems to be no question of length and direction For him, everything seems to be timing and eyesight A straight drive off Madan Lal's good length ball—that went sizzling for four—hoisted the 100 of the Bombay innings But at the other end, Doshi teased and tantalized Vengsarkar with the immaculate figures of 18 runs in 10 overs Sandeep reached 50 in only 75 balls with six fours and it was then that Vengsarkar, essentially a front-foot player, ex



Sandip Patil in a punishing mood

ecated two perfectly timed mid-wicket drives to the fence off Doshi to raise the 100 partnership for the third wicket in only 105 minutes.

Immediately after this, Vengsarkar tried to move across for an on side flick and was lbw to the other striving bowler, Kapil, for 47. Yet one could say that Vengsarkar is not the same sure bat of bygone years. He always seems to be wrestling with a second idea of playing a particular stroke and his back-foot has of late become atrocious. It was at the fall of the third wicket at 176, with Rahul Mankad joining Sandeep, that Patil took 13 runs off Kapil's 15th over to take his own score from 57 to 70.

There were three successive fours off Kapil. But there was a dramatic change in the manner of the strokes. The sheer joy of muscular power was no longer in evidence. Rather, two successive cover drives followed by a mid wicket flick to the boundary were perfect copy book strokes and evoked the pleasures of the mind more durable than the pleasures of the flesh.

One witnessed an effortless six over long on off Doshi—all wrist work—to take Sandeep from 76 to 82. And when Rahul Mankad was neatly caught behind by Kirmani off Doshi at the score of 230, one saw Sandeep Patil late cut Yadav in the manner of Vishwanath. The ball went straight to the fence. And he followed this up with a straight drive off Yadav's straighter one to the boundary to reach his maiden century in his debut in the competition. He had scored 101 in only 130 balls. It was only in the last over of the day that Sandeep was ironically out to Madan Lal, to an amazing one handed catch by Dilip Doshi at long on. But this was not before Sandeep had carried his team's total to 302.





If one were to analyse Sandeep's grand innings of 125, one could say that it was composed of two different stages. One was the Sandeep we know—all fire and fury, the use of long arms and the sense of sight and timing. And the other was the Sandeep that one is gradually getting to know. Methodical. Trying to build up the innings with a sense of touch and artistry. It was because of the fusion of both these factors that one could say that Sandeep Patil is going to be a front rank batsman of the Indian team in the years to come.

It was only at the fall of the sixth wicket, at 334—that of Ashok Mankad, who piled up a steady 50—that one saw the birth of another genuine all rounder in Ravi Shastri, who bats right hand though a left arm spinner. Shastri was last out for 80, when his team had amassed 445. This was his first Irani Trophy competition and it was a magnificent debut as a batsman. So dogged was his innings that it consisted of only four hits to the fence. With his height, he stretches right forward and with push drives, flicks and placements, he scores most of his runs. But he seemed vulnerable to pace, especially as he was going back to Kapil's bouncers, when the latter—out of sheer frustration—went round the wicket and bowled a series of bumpers at Shastri.

Nevertheless, with Shastri as a batsman, the story of having a long Indian



tail has become a tale of the past. Doshi, with 4 for 92 in 45 overs and Madan Lal with 3 for 80 in 24 overs, were the main weapons of attack for the Rest of India.

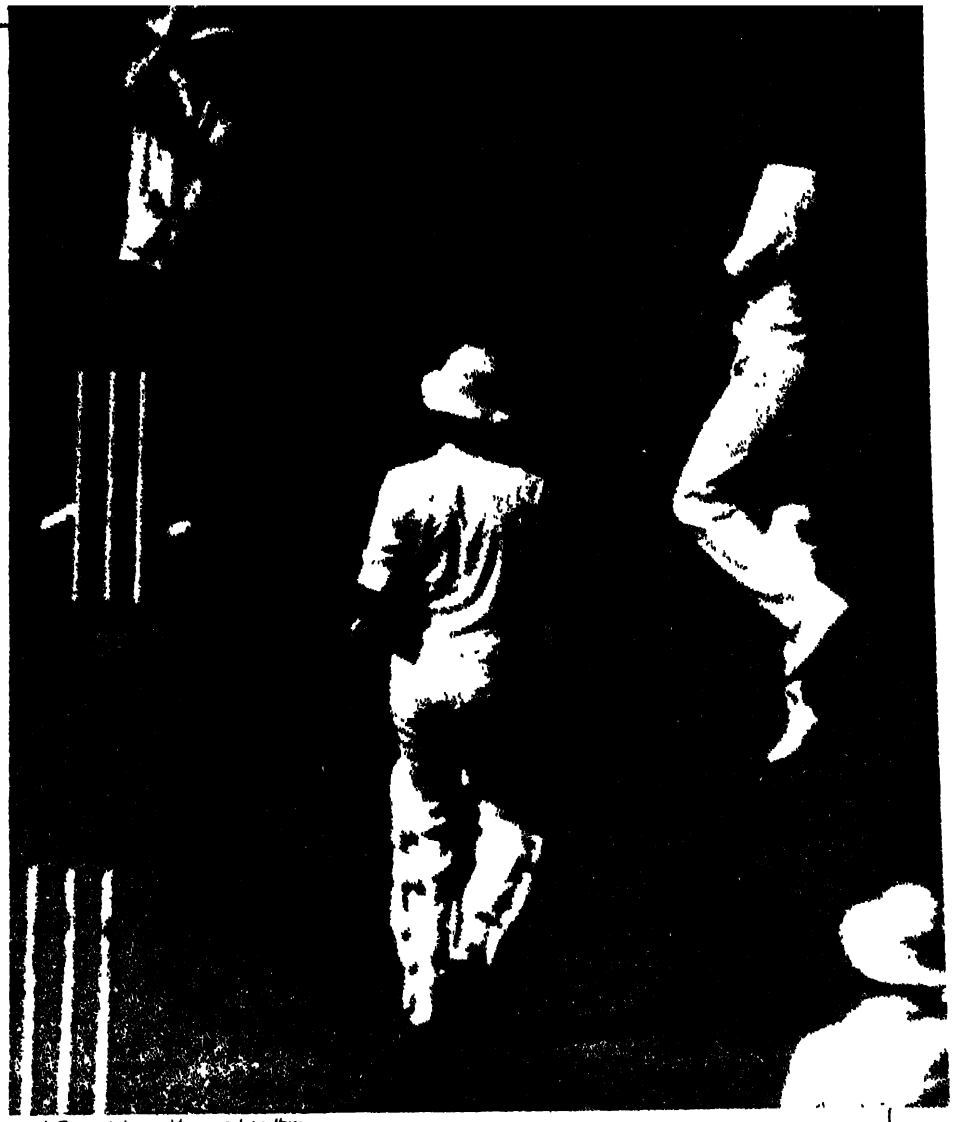
One thing about Vishwanath's captaincy Unlike Sunil Gavaskar, who captained brilliantly with a limited attack, Vishwanath not for once set an attacking field though he had bowlers of the calibre of Kapil Dev, Madan Lal, Dilip Doshi, Shivlal Yadav and Barun Burman. Unlike Gavaskar, he never made shrewd and intelligent changes in the attack He seemed to be too passive a "gentleman" for the job

THE Rest of India openers, up and coming Sanjeeva Rao and established Chetan Chauhan, went merrily till 15 But only after seven overs, Gavaskar removed medium-pacer Sandhu from the pavilion end and brought in left-arm spinner Shastri And what a devastating bowler he looked on the same wicket on which Doshi looked simply steady! In his very third over, Shastri clean-bowled Sanjeeva Rao with an armer Rao, who had looked quite promising as an opener, played forward to a ball that curved on to the wicket after nipping the edge of the bat. Rao left for 14 and in his seventh over Shastri had Chauhan caught at forward short leg for 19 and Surinder Amarnath was similarly out for 18

This teen-aged lad had now taken 3 for 23 in only nine overs It was astounding to see the amount of bounce that Shastri was able to extract from the wicket on which Doshi and

Madanlal executes a square-drive





Kapil Dev strikes—Vengsarkar lbw

Shivlal had failed to get much help In the very next over, Vishwanath went back to a low ball from Shastri and was apprehensively adjudged lbw It was a beauty of a ball that kept low, turned off the seam and after holding on a bit, whipped through fast on to Vishy's pads The Rest of India score was now 56 for 4, with Shastri having taken 4 for 23 in 10 overs

Shastri had justified the confidence that Gavaskar had reposed upon him One must say, he has matured by leaps and bounds He was flighting, bowling the armer, the faster ones, the straighter ones—always changing his line and direction and keeping the batsmen guessing all the time And he could do all this not only because he had a massive total of 445 runs to play with, but because Gavaskar had all along set an attacking field for him, with two slips, a silly point, a forward short-leg and the wicketkeeper, all crouching round the batsman

It was then that Madan Lal and the promising youngster Ashok Malhotra tried the offensive when the latter pulled two successive short-of-length balls from Shastri to the on-side fence But at 103, Malhotra was brilliantly caught at silly point by Vengsarkar for 24 and Shastri had now a haul of 5 for 43 in 16 overs

In came Kapil Dev He set on to the business immediately At the other end, Madan Lal showed perfect technique in playing neatly forward Off spinner Mokashi, whose bowling action looks suspect, was given rough treatment by Kapil, who hit him for a booming six over long on and took as many as 27 runs off him in only four overs Seeing this, Madan, too, opened out and with sizzling square drives off his backfoot punished Mokashi severely When Kapil was 41 off only 49 balls with five fours and a six, he played over a low straighter one from Shastri and was clean bowled The sixth wicket partnership had yielded 54 runs in only 57 minutes And Shastri had taken all six wickets for only 64 runs in 25 overs

WICKETS began to tumble now with Kirmani caught at silly point by Vengsarkar, once again off Shastri But Madan Lal held on like a fighter He completed 50 in 108 balls with six fours and, with the fall of the eighth wicket—that of Yadav, brilliantly stumped off Shastri at 193- Madan on

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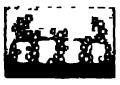
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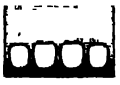
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Was it injury, or something else?

BARUN BURMAN's crying off from the Irani Trophy match at Indore has raised quite a few controversies in Calcutta cricket circles. This is the fourth time, in important engagements, that the Bengal medium-pacer left the field. And the excuse has always been on medical grounds. Today, the question on cricket enthusiasts' lips is whether the case is purely medical or partially mental. Is Barun shrinking away from important matches? Is he mentally unprepared to face the consequences of failure? Or is he still over-awed by the occasion?

Whatever the truth may be, it stands to reason that Barun Burman's "aptitude" for staying away from important fixtures has done no credit to him. In fact, aspersions have even been cast on other Bengal cricketers as well. It is being said that in the course of the last decade, quite a few Bengal cricketers found ways and means to avoid crucial matches but invariably managed to become fit for the lesser fixtures against weaker opposition. The problem today is beyond redemption, it seems. And the officials have not taken any constructive steps so far. Before the Irani match, at Jaipur, in the Wills Trophy match against a strong Board President's XI, Bengal played with just 10 men. Barun reported stomach ailment and Moloy Banerjee mentioned muscle injury. On his return from Indore, I asked Barun the reason for not participating.

Barun replied: "It's just my bad luck that I get injured in the important matches. The first instance took place in 1975 during the unofficial Test against Sri Lanka at Nagpur. When I was bowling, suddenly, there was a ligament pull on my right leg. I was advised complete rest by the doctors. The next injury took place in 1978. That was an Irani Trophy match. Playing for the Rest of India, against Karnataka, while fielding I tried to save a scorching drive by Roger Binny. In the process my right thumb was broken. That was more or less the trial match before the Pakistan tour. There, also, luck was against me."

"At Jaipur, I had food poison, so there was no option other than staying away. Then, the last injury at Indore. While bowling my fourth over, I suddenly developed a pain in the right rib. I went to the hospital, where they took an X-ray. Though there was no fracture, Dr Bhargav, who is an orthopaedist, said it was a muscle pull. There can be doubts as to why I batted in both the innings. I want to make it clear that I did so on the instructions of my captain, G.R. Vishwanath. Madanlal was on the verge of scoring a century and the position of the team was bad. I was practically forced to enter the field. Though I batted, I could not do it properly. I just blocked the deliveries and let Madanlal do the scoring. In the second innings, most of the players were in a hurry to leave for Trivandrum for the Duleep Trophy match. So, again, I was forced to bat.

"All this talk about my crying away from important matches is rubbish. I have proved myself in the two matches I played against the English team that toured India in the 1976-77 season. First, for the Board President's XI and then for East Zone. All along I have earned my place in the team. I do not have any Godfathers. The selectors called me for the Irani Trophy match only for my Ranji and Duleep performances

"In this regard I have got something else to say. Most of the players who get selected to play in the Irani Trophy matches come with at least 10-15 matches behind them in the current season. But that is not the case with players from East Zone We go there with no match practice at all. We practise in the indoor stadium but there one has to bowl without boots. It is very difficult for a bowler to bowl without boots. For that reason, I had to practise at the Calcutta Cricket Club ground and Kartick Bose's residence, at my own expense. One of the main reasons for my injury is that the match took place before the start of the season. One hardly finds players having muscle pulls in the middle of the season.

"Another thing. Some people have called me a veteran. What they seem to have forgotten is that I played at school level with Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sandip Patil and Yashpal Sharma. Just because I have started playing Ranji Trophy from my school days does not mean that I have become old. Players from other zones get straight into the Test side without being called for the Irani Trophy, and just because I have failed to appear in the match does not mean that this was my last chance. I will try harder and will definitely make it."

Today the question can only be cleared if the Cricket Association of Bengal comes forward to enquire about Barun Burman's fitness problems. But, unfortunately, nothing has been done so far. I contacted the CAB about Barun's fitness after his return from Indore. The CAB office said they were not even aware of Burman's whereabouts. And then came the great surprise of finding his name in the East Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy.

I believe that the East Zone representative, Dattu Phadkar met Barun at Indore and was aware of his injury. Yet when the East Zone selectors got together, Phadkar did not hesitate to put Burman's name in the squad. This definitely defies logic. If a player is found unfit, how can he be selected for the next match even before he produces a certificate of fitness? This kind of callousness on the part of selectors and officials is indeed shocking. And it is because of such favouritism that some players are getting away with it.

SARAJIT DEB

56 was left alone to make a fight of the match Burman left at 220, this time to Ghavri as a left arm spinner and Madan was 74 not out Doshi walked in and it was a remarkable partnership of 41 for the last wicket before Doshi was scalped by Shastri, leaving Madan Lal with a fighting knock of 97

It was a great innings by Madan Lal, who is still one of the best all-rounders in the country and for one who last played for India against Australia three years ago, it was a great comeback But all his greatness as a batsman was overshadowed by the new Irani Trophy record set by left-arm spinner Ravi Shastri, who had taken 9 for 101 in 45 overs, thus surpassing leg-spinner Baloo Gupte's record of 8 for 48 in one innings for Bombay against the Rest of India at Anantpur in 1964 And, for that matter, no left-arm spinner has ever taken nine wickets in an innings in the Irani Trophy

When *Sportsworld* asked Sunil Gavaskar why and how he could have so much of confidence in Ravi Shastri from the very beginning, he said "Instinct. Only instinct Ravi has proved his worth now with a new Irani Trophy record He is young, talented and always willing to learn and with these qualities in any player, no one can stop him from achieving honours if only the dedication persists"

Bombay's second innings and the Rest's second innings were exercise in futility, except that Gavaskar scored an unbeaten 102, thus notching up his third century in the Irani Trophy—this itself being a record His last century was an unbeaten knock of 156 at Pune in 1974 At the end of the match, Ravi Shastri was declared the Man of the Match and Sandeep Patil the best batsman

SUJEET MOHANTY, Indore
PHOTOGRAPHS
SUBANDHU DUBE

UP best

Former Indian captain and present selector GURBUX SINGH assesses the first National Sub-junior hockey championship

THE idea behind holding the National Sub junior hockey championship was to unearth young talent so that India can strive to maintain its position as one of the leading exponents of the game in the world The competition was successful to a considerable extent in this respect Indeed, it saw the emergence of a number of promising hockey players, among whom I want to make special mention of the following

Goal: Rajesh Kundapal(UP), Saeed Ahmed (TN), D Parthiban (Karnataka), Lohit Solanki (Gujarat) and M Mulla (Maharashtra)

Full Backs: Muhammad Ishaq (MP), Matloob Muhammed (UP), Munawar Siddique (Bhopal), Tapinder Singh (Bengal), N Dijnen Singh (Manipur), Manukant (Chandigarh), Senthivel (Tamil Nadu), Gautam Sur (Bengal) **Half Backs:** Ravinder (UP), Vijay Reddi (MP), D Chander (Karnataka), Terrence (Maharashtra), Reehan Ahmed (Tamil Nadu), Charanveer Singh (Bengal), A Wainwright (Bengal), R K Yadav (UP), K Manglam (Manipur), Soma Sundaram (Tamil Nadu), M Afaq (Bhopal) **Forwards:** Ram Parkash Singh (UP), R Venkat (Karnataka), Asim Zaffar (UP), Baljeet Singh (Bengal), R K Nripen (Manipur), M.K Metei (Manipur), Rajiv Mukherjee (M.P), Pardeep Singh (MP), Arifi Ali (Bhopal), K Adhikary (Bengal), Bisht (UP), Atul Ram (MP), W Rahman (UP), Gianunder Singh (Chandigarh).

Uttar Pradesh won the Pankaj Gupta Memorial trophy beating Bengal 3-0 in the final of the championship hosted by the Bengal Hockey Association with the help of the West Bengal Council of Sports and Pankaj Gupta Memorial Committee who donated the handsome trophy for the winners and Mrs Basana Gupta trophy for the runners-up as well as the individual trophies for the finalists It being no season for hockey in Calcutta the tournament was held at the St Thomas School ground and the Rabindra Sarobar Stadium where the semi-finals and the final were played.

Initially 17 teams sent in their entries and Manipur were included at the last moment But, after the tournament started four of the 18 teams—Punjab, Assam, Orissa and Goa withdrew

The tournament was played on a league cum-knock-out basis and the 14 teams were divided into four pools with Bengal, Vidharba and Tamil Nadu being in pool A, Delhi Karnataka, M P , Maharashtra in pool B, U.P , Manipur, Hyderabad, Chandigarh in pool C and Bhopal Gujarat and Haryana in pool D

Though, with the withdrawal of four teams the original draw became lop sided things were further bedevilled when Haryana and Delhi were debarred by the organisers from further participation because of objections raised by some people about the eligibility certificates brought by the two teams

Coming back to the tournament, there were very few exciting matches in the pool engagement, the only interesting one being the match between U P and Manipur in pool C

Manipur started on a very hopeful note on the opening day trouncing Hyderabad 15-1 This incidentally, was also the highest score notched up by any team in the tournament Inside-left Nripen Singh of Manipur scored seven goals and K Metei added another four In another match on the opening day M P defeated Karnataka 4-1, with Atul Ram and Rajeev Mukherjee scoring two each for M P and the Karnataka captain D Chunder reducing the margin for his side

Probably one of the best matches of the tournament was played between U P and Manipur Both the teams displayed good teamwork as well as fine individual skill Before U P could settle down Manipur shot into the lead through Y Dayanand But thereafter U P slowly took the upper hand and emerged winners by 3 1, the goals coming through Ram Parkash Singh (2) and substitute S Bisht This match was well-contested and the crowd, though thin, fully enjoyed the show.

The quarter final stage was reached by Bengal and Tamil Nadu from Group A, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka from Group B, U P. and Manipur from Group C and Bhopal and Gujarat from



SUNIL BHATTACHARYA

The UP players who won the sub-junior National hockey championship are seen with the coveted trophy



The umpire is trying to pacify the players of the two sides

Group D

In the quarter-finals the most hard fought match was played between Manipur and Bhopal Full time resulting in 2-2, extra time was resoted to The teams again scored a goal each reaching a result of three all before the penalty strokes were applied The match was finally decided by the second set of strokes with Manipur ousting Bhopal by an aggregate margin of 11-9

The sturdy Manipur boys combined well and took the lead through Jitesh wai off a crosspass from Dayanand But Bhopal equalised within a minute through a penalty stroke converted by Naeem Naeem scored again a field goal this time—to give Bhopal the lead, but then it was the turn for Nripen Singh of Manipur to equalise through a penalty stroke In the extra time the Bhopal captain Muhammed Arift took his side into the lead in the 6th minute, but again it proved short-lived as K Meter of Manipur equalised the score As described above, Manipur ultimately won by 8-6 in the penalty strokes

In another quarter final Tamil Nadu edged out M P 6 4 via the tie breaker after the full time ended in 1 1 M P, also suffered the mortification of wasting a penalty stroke during the match

Bengal had no difficulty in defeating Karnataka 5-1 In the last quarter-final U P notched up an easy 9-0 victory over Karnataka However, it will be worth mentioning that Karnataka along with Gujarat and Chandigarh fielded probably the youngest sides in the tournament which, I feel, is a very good investment for the future, while most of the other sides had boys all born in 1966 or so This tournament was open to the boys born after January 1, 1966

In the semi finals it was U P and Manipur again who put up one of the most exciting shows with the former emerging winners with a margin of 3-0. The match was well contested, though the score does not indicate it Manipur fought valiantly, but it was poor finishing which proved their undoing. After Shakeel opened the account for U P in the 6th minute, Mohd Matloob consolidated the lead in the 22nd minute off a penalty corner But Manipur missed three sitters. Then, in the 52nd minute, U P made it safe through a penalty stroke converted by Asim Zaffai

In the other semi final, Bengal were made to fight for every inch by Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu attacked first and the Bengal goalkeeper, Jude Fernandez saved a certain goal off a stringing shot from Ayya but a little later Baljit's shot was well saved by the Tamil Nadu goalkeeper Sameer Ahd Bengal ultimately prevailed through a goal by its stopper K Adhikary off a pass from his right winger Jogiaj Singh

The final play turned out to be an anti-climax, as U P proved too good for the hosts The U P boys already have the credit of having won the Junior hockey championship at Kolhapur this year Bengal were subdued from the very beginning and seemed content not to concede the lead to a more experienced and well-combined U.P The latter were attacking from their right flank where Ram Parkash Singh was prominent But it was through fine tackling by left-half Wainwright that Bengal were able to hold on till the 21st minute Ram Parkash scored off a rebound from U P's third penalty corner Ram Parkash increased U P's lead within two minutes, again scoring off a penalty corner rebound After the breather, within a few minutes, a free-for-all marred the match and one player from each team was given marching orders by umpire Erman Sebastian, the players involved being Pankaj Misra of U P and Topinder Singh of Bengal.

As a result, the game suffered as both the teams had to reshuffle their line-up since they had to play with 10 men each, practically throughout the second half U P, however, got a gift goal when Bengal's Fernandez needlessly stopped an innocent looking centre, thereby allowing substitute Sarabjit to send the ball in U.P. emerged deserving winners The West Bengal Governor, Mr B D Pandey, gave away the prizes

With the successful completion of this first Sub junior National hockey championship, I hope a new chapter in Indian hockey will start As the Indian Hockey Federation hopes to find new and up-coming youngsters at the 16-year level, we will have a continuous flow of talent to take into the junior team and then the senior Indian hockey team The Indian Hockey Federation is selecting 25 to 30 players from this tournament, which it hopes to train for the future

I hope this tournament will be given the importance it rightly deserves and I am sure it will help a great deal in the revival of the fortunes of Indian hockey

A policeman is hustling a player out



Profile

The 'Maradona' of chess

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL profiles DIBYENDU BARUA who has caused a sensation in Indian and international chess

DIBYENDU was seeking a brain wave Face to face with him was Tony Miles, the celebrated chess player who has the rich experience of a prosperous career behind him No wonder Dibyendu was somewhat awed sitting before England's first and best Grandmaster It was a second round match in the Lloyd's Bank championship recently held at London Dibyendu was playing with black and it was his turn to move

Eager to pre empt any dangerous move possibly lurking in Miles' mind Dibyendu cudgelled his brain hard and made a move, but no sooner had he taken his hand off the board than he saw Miles raise his eyes in surprise and fix them on his face A faint smile appeared on his face and a few words came out of his mouth "How can Miles play and win against Miles himself?"

Puzzled, Dibyendu could not make head or tail of what Miles meant A few moments later Miles clarified, that unknowingly, Dibyendu had played the very same move by which Miles once defeated Anatoly Karpov, the reigning world chess champion who is currently facing challenger Victor Korchnoi at Merano Dumb-founded, Dibyendu could not utter a single word and the match was drawn

In fact, in the beginning, Miles was in a better position having won two pawns in quick succession Dibyendu smelt danger and tried to defend all his vulnerable points But the pressure was still on, though there were some signs of its abatement Inch by inch Dibyendu took himself to a safer and somewhat hopeful position

But, at this juncture, Dibyendu lost two more pawns In fact, he almost sacrificed these two important lieutenants of his regiment under the impression that he was close to a draw or even victory, if Miles was not going to accept the offer of a draw But something went wrong in his calculations and he found his ploy of no use In addition, the mistake cost him a piece

But the situation was still not totally out of control. Dibyendu had two connected pawns in possession in the 6th rank, by which he tried desperately to stave off defeat But, fortunately, by then Miles had fallen into time trouble, which forced him to give five moves in two minutes, and thereby lose the opportunity to win giving, on the contrary, a winning chance to Barua But that was not to be Miles got the advantage of perpetual check and the match was drawn

Thus ended a see saw battle—one of the most crucial and prestigious in Dibyendu's chess career which began in 1972 when he was a tiny child of 5 and a half years

Chess was a family game Every member of it, including his father, brothers and others, had intense passion for the game Dibyendu's father spent a considerable amount of time playing chess with his friends or other members of the family It was during one such session that his father discovered his inborn talent in the game

ONE day as his father was facing defeat at the hands of one of his friends Dibyendu, who was sitting beside him, detected a mistake in his



Dibyendu Barua the young chess genius being interviewed by Dipankar Ghosh of the BBC Bengali service

combination and advised him to change it Amused, his father only laughed and did not pay any heed to it. But finding Dibyendu insistent, he at last acceeded to his request and found the match saved.

It was a surprise too striking to be taken lightly In fact, it awakened his father to the amazing gift Providence has endowed Dibyendu with Thereafter, it became a story of father encouraging his son and taking him to various tournaments to test his ability

The first competition in which Dibyendu took part was the all-Bengal Chess tournament (open to all), organized by the West Bengal Chess Association Sitting on a chair raised by a stool Dibyendu faced the first rival in his career—a professor of a Calcutta college

The next competition was the Writers' Buildings Chess tournament, also open to all Dibyendu emerged with a respectable 50% score

The following years saw Dibyendu improve his game steadily and find a berth in the Junior Nationals held at Calcutta in 1975 Usually, the first four players in the State championships are allowed to take part in the Junior Nationals But Dibyendu, despite having finished sixth in the State Championships, got admission in the tournament by virtue of being a player from the host State. Dibyendu finished seventh, his age at that time being only eight years

The 1977 Junior Nationals were held in Kottayam. But this time Dibyendu could not improve upon his earlier performance at Calcutta At the end of the tournament he found himself in 12th position

This was followed by a brief spell of poor form when he played in most of the State tournaments with no remarkable achievement

Moreover, Dibyendu did not participate in the 1977 Nationals, though he finished 20th in the State Senior A

Then came 1978—a significant year in Dibyendu's career He stood first in the State Sub Junior Championship held at Calcutta. But that was not all An even greater feat he achieved the same year when he became champion in the State Senior tournament also held at Calcutta At 11 years and 3 months, he became the youngest State chess champion in India But the most peculiar thing is that he became State Senior champion before he could win any State Junior Championship Added to these accomplishments was the seventh position that he won at the All India Alekhine Memorial Chess tournament held at Calcutta

The more he was getting exposed to these experiences, the more he was becoming matured His technique showed remarkable improvement with both defence and offence touching almost international standards In fact, these were his formative years for the international outings which were to follow soon

But there were even greater feats to be achieved by this youngster in the same year At the National B championship he secured the 10th place, and thereby qualified for the National A at the age of 11 years and 8 months which stands as an Indian record In the 1979 National A championship at Trichi Dibyendu reached the 16th position playing against some top-ranking chess players of the country. Closely following it came the Junior Nationals at Nagpur Dibyendu narrowly missed the championship's top prize and stood second

A few months later he participated in the International Alekhine Memorial matches at Calcutta. Here Dibyendu drew with Aivar Gipslis, a Soviet Grandmaster, who was so pleased with his play that he remarked that given proper patronage Dibyendu would become the first Indian international Grandmaster

IN the 1979 National B competition at Hyderabad, Dibyendu had some bitter experiences First, he could not find himself among the first ten Then, he fell a victim to pressures put on him by some players and others to draw the match with Satyanarayan, a player from Andhra Pradesh This ultimately cost him even the 14th place which was captured by Satyanarayan. Dibyendu got the 15th position

In fact, 1979 too was no less a



Dibyendu (left) playing in the State B championship

significant year in his life It saw Dibyendu play in a foreign country for the first time at the World Minor Under-14 tournament at Mexico Dibyendu won the third place. On this international outing Dibyendu found the foreign players well-equipped in both defence and offence The most commendable thing he noticed in them was their ability to switch over from attack to defence and vice versa very quickly Moreover, their knowledge of the theories of the game was also remarkable

In the 1979 Asian Junior championship at Sivakashi, Dibyendu got 3rd-4th position, which means that the points secured by the two position holders were equal

However, Dibyendu got entry into this tournament by virtue of being a top-ranking player of the host country, though only champions of the participating countries were eligible to compete Wong Mang Kong of Singapore eventually won the championship, but it was J K Jhunjhunwalla, a player from Hong Kong, who actually seemed all set to win the first place But Dibyendu drew with him and he was deprived of the top honours



Dibyendu playing with rapt attention at Argentina

But the best player in the tournament, according to Dibyendu, was A. Yap whom he defeated Yap had 90% chances to be the champion, but failed, perhaps due to exhaustion

Dibyendu won the 1980 Sub-Junior championship virtually hands down Even Neeraj Mishra, whom he found strong in the opening game but weak in the end game and vulnerable to psychological pressures, was beaten by him Neeraj, he feels has a tendency to lose games consecutively

Dibyendu maintained his form and achieved another remarkable success the same year when he became the national junior champion for the first time at Jaipur Here his main rivals were no obscure people— D V Prasad, Ramesh, Mitrakant and others Dibyendu was beaten by Mitrakant of Tamil Nadu who was better prepared and very calculating in his moves, while the former kept to the beaten track in deciding his strategy and almost courted defeat

Not only Mitrakant, the Tamil Nadu players in general are usually very well trained and aggressive But Dibyendu mainly banked on his innate



Dibyendu Barua (front row, second from left) with other competitors of the World Sub-junior championship at Argentina

gift which does not always carry a player through

In the 1980 National B championships at Delhi, Dibyendu won the seventh position, while the top honour was captured by Awate. A number of top Indian chess players participated in this tournament, some of whom Dibyendu had to face in different round matches. But this time, he had some problems with his opening style which cost him the match against Rohini Khadilkar (Maharashtra) Exasperated, Dibyendu took great pains to change his opening strategy and adopted a new one before long

The 1980 World Sub-Junior competition at France saw Dibyendu finish a respectable fifth, while the championship was won by V Salove of USSR Dibyendu played with him in the third round and got a definite draw in the middle game by perpetual check But Dibyendu thought that he had got a mate there and took a combination accordingly He was wrong Yet he stood a chance to win, but unfortunately after each break Dibyendu made an important mistake which he could not afford to and thereby lost the match

Another reason for his failure, perhaps, was fatigue induced by over work, as Barua himself admitted later It told considerably on his performance in the match against Greenfield of Israel Dibyendu lost the game helplessly It was in the ninth round that he met with success again, when he beat France's Luce

Most of these foreign players were tough fighters and used to playing for hours together with no sign of exhaustion or nervousness But Barua too was no weak player In the last round of this tournament, he faced a Brazilian player, Milos (Junior) who, despite being in an advantageous position, lost the game falling in time trouble It was a match of fierce attacks and counter-attacks

IT was in the 1980 World Junior championship in West Germany that Dibyendu saw Kasparov (whom he holds in high esteem) in action for the first time But, Dibyendu could not do anything remarkable in the initial stages and hence did not get any opportunity to play with the top players He only managed to equalize his points with those of the player who got the sixth position to be ranked 6th-14th

In the following months Dibyendu won the Pondicherry National Sub Junior championship and finished 3rd in the National Junior at Cuddalore

The year 1981 saw Dibyendu set another Indian record when he was seeded in the National A at only 14 years and 3 months In this tournament Dibyendu was ranked 1st-4th, his score being equal to that of M Aaron who emerged the champion of the event

It was here against Aaron that Dibyendu participated in one of the most exciting matches in his short span as a chess player In the very



T N Parameswaran

beginning, Barua got a golden opportunity to corner the man who is India's first International Master and nine times National champion—five times in a row In fact, Dibyendu could hardly expect the Master to leave an easy opening for him Encouraged, he put tremendous pressure on his opponent's defence utilising the early advantage he had got But Aaron fought back and saved the match by an excellent seal move which took Dibyendu by surprise In the other matches of the tournament Dibyendu drew with Parameswaran who was runners up, and even defeated Ravi Shekhar who tried to experiment with a new style of movement

Then came the World Sub Junior tournament in Argentina, which brought Dibyendu into international prominence Described by the dailies there as the 'Maradona of chess' after the name of their soccer star Diego Maradona, Dibyendu was rated as the possible champion of the tournament

But there were some bitter experiences too when his luggage remained missing for ten long days after arrival All these days Dibyendu could not change his dress and suffered tremendous psychological disadvantage No wonder it told on his performance to a considerable extent In the first six rounds Dibyendu played quite contrary to expectations In the fourth he lost to Arlandi of Italy, though in the early stages he was poised for a sure win, which could have been achieved but for his failure to cash in on a beautiful mating combination

DIBYENDU's performance improved noticeably after he got back his luggage He got the Brilliance Player prize for his victory over the American champion who faced a premeditated and well calculated attack from his opponent The American player, on the contrary, was playing with wrong conception and proved scarcely a match for Dibyendu, who finished third at the end of the tournament

In the Lightning chess competition that followed the main tournament Dibyendu beat Stewart Conquest of UK and emerged champion

After the Argentinian tour, Dibyendu went to London to compete in the Lloyd's Bank chess tournament, in which seven Grandmasters, including the ex world champion V Smyslov participated Mainly a positional player with orthodox style, Smyslov gave a tough fight against Dibyendu, but failed to overcome him, and the match was drawn

But the victory, Dibyendu will always look back on with pride, came when Stewart Conquest surrendered to him after trying hard to get out of the disadvantageous position he was pushed into by his Indian rival Dibyendu was placed 8th 18th and won the Junior Masters' Trophy for obtaining the highest points in the junior group But that was not all Something even more prestigious came his way before long—the International Master norm

Back home, Barua suffered a spell of poor form at the National Sub Junior championship at Mysore where he could not even touch the first three positions

Among the rising players in the world today, Garry Kasperov of USSR is estimated by Dibyendu as most promising and the future world champion

But what does Dibyendu himself aspire to achieve? His ambition knows no bounds

Sportspeople

Player-coach-umpire extraordinary

WHO is the speediest forward in Indian hockey so far?

If one broaches the above question there will be, expectedly, many answers reflecting a genuine difference of opinion on the issue But if the question is clarified a trifle and it is added that speed means "speed with the ball," most of the votes will doubtless go in favour of *Erman Roque Bastian*, who played for India from 1958 to 1962 For, speed by itself always counts less than speed with the ball—be it in football or hockey The sight of Erman running with the ball or successfully chasing an impossible forward pass still flashes before one's mind's eye. It was a pleasure to recollect those scenes with the Olympian himself when he came to Calcutta recently in the capacity of an umpire for the Nationals (sub-junior).

Lest one misunderstands, it must also be made clear that Erman has not yet formally announced his retirement from hockey Even at this age—he was born on September 8, 1935—he assists the Bhilai Steel Plant side. After donning the Central Railway colours for about a decade, he joined the BSP in 1964 as a Sports Officer and is with them ever since then. Calcuttans will remember having seen him playing for both the teams and one need not be surprised if Erman is seen assisting the BSP team in the coming Beighton Cup tourney

In 1953, Erman started playing hockey seriously with Nagpur United. That year, the team reached the Beighton Cup final where the then formidable Tata S C. beat them 2-0. But by that time he had been able to attract public attention as one of the rising stars of Indian hockey. The next year he was selected to represent Madhya Pradesh. Mind you, that was the old M. P. which then included Nagpur. After representing his State for two more years he joined the Central Railway in late 1956 and helped the Railways to lift the Rangaswamy Cup for three years in succession (1957 to 1959). He was in the Railways squad for as many as seven Nationals and had the opportunity of playing by the side of the great Kishen Lal—his "Kishen dada,"—for three years. Erman is principally known as a centre-forward, but he was equally adept in playing in either of the inside positions He actually played as an inside to avoid a confrontation with Udham Singh It was the late K. D. Singh 'Babu' who advised him to switch over to the left-inside position.



During his ten years of first-class hockey (1954 to 1963), Erman was on the Central Railway side that twice won the Beighton Cup in Calcutta. And he played in five consecutive Gold Cup (Bombay) finals for his team, to commemorate which a special trophy was presented to him by the organisers. Besides representing India in the Rome Olympics and the fourth Asian Games at Jakarta in 1962, this speedster was, with the Indian side and toured with the I H. F. team to Africa, the Germanies, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore and Ceylon.

Erman has the highest respect for K. D Singh 'Babu' whom he reckons as a very good coach. "Whatever hockey I have got is due to 'Babu'," he says. He received coaching from Babu in 1958 when an Indian team toured various centres of the country, and also in the next year when the I. H. F team toured East Africa. But the most effective coaching from the maestro he received later, when the entire Bhilai Steel Plant team was at Lucknow Sports College for the purpose of special training

Erman thinks that coaching and umpiring are but two sides of the same coin Like his game itself, the umpiring of this M. P. State umpire can also be traced back to his Nagpur United days when he came into contact with Mr S L Narwaria, the reputed National umpire It was Mr Narwaria who encouraged Erman to take up the whistle And his coaching began even when he was a Central Railway player He is still a coach with the Bhilai Steel Plant and one need not be astonished if he climbs some more rungs of the ladder to reach the top in this sphere

Indeed, he has been able to turn the BSP into one of the strong hockey combinations of the country The only unfulfilled desire of the successful player-coach-umpire seems to be his not getting an opportunity to play for Mohun Bagan whose "blind supporter" he claims himself to be Mohun Bagan also keen on recruiting him but the Central Railway authorities repeatedly turned down their request to release him "So I had to play and also score goals against the team I always

longed to play for."

Erman wants the budding hockey stars to have the five "S"s—stickwork, speed (with the ball, of course), skill, stamina and strength The BSP Fuel Economy Inspector is of the opinion that there is enough talent in the country and the just-concluded inaugural Nationals for the sub-juniors has strengthened his belief

A devout Roman Catholic, Erman Bastian is happily married to Pancline Louis, daughter of Mr M. Louis of Amaravati and they have two daughters and a son But the biggest disappointment for the Olympian is that Don Anand Joseph Bastian is absolutely allergic to hockey, reserving all his affection and interest for cricket So that is a full circle inasmuch as Erman's father, the late J Bastian, then the head clerk of Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, was a good cricket player For which reason he was a favourite with the Maharajahs who patronised cricket in M P as elsewhere in India

Erman is an inspiration to youngsters for something other than his hockey He is a teetotaller One does not frequently come across an Olympian who is a teetotaller Why did he become one? "Well, those things are not at all necessary for your daily life That's all"

Reading novels and gardening are the spare-time occupation of this interesting character of Indian hockey who started playing the game at the age of seven with improvised sticks made of branches of trees What are his future plans—other than those related to hockey? "When I retire I shall go back to my native place at Rajnandgaon and settle there I shall start a sports goods shop there and also devote some of my time to agriculture and poultry farming", Erman says modestly

Not many people know that before every game, Erman used to vow to himself thus "I must score at least one goal and my team must win And I shall play such a game that they would point my name prominently in tomorrow's papers" How many of our present players have this brand of determination?



Mehboob Khan, the captain of the Indian Airlines and a member of the Indian squad that played in the Montreal Olympics entered into wedlock with Gillian, an Indo-Australian girl at Bhopal recently

Politician with a difference

THE first-ever independent Sports Minister of Madhya Pradesh, *Lt. Colonel Ajay Mushran* is a politician with a difference Sandy-complexioned, spick and span, and speaking in chaste English, his eyes depict calm self-reliance and strength of purpose, founded upon the experiences of the Army life that he relinquished after 26 years to join politics. The sudden demise of his father, a senior Cabinet Minister of MP, compelled Lt. Colonel Ajay Mushran to enter a field where army discipline and quick decision-making are sadly missing.

Photographs of the minister playing golf, squash and hockey during his Army days, hang on his walls. In his own words, "It's easy for a person to be player, but it's difficult for him to be a sportsman. My endeavour would be to spot sportsmen from the vast tribal and rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, groom them and bring them to the limelight. Today, we have the costly urbanised version of games. While in the Army and posted in Assam, I found villagers playing football made with bamboo stuffed into cottonbags. In villages, and in tribal areas, you can easily pick up players with instinctive genius. Today, because of the politi



cisation of youth, people feel that it is confined only to cities. I want to prove this feeling wrong.

First of all, I would like to introduce my plan to the rural areas to spot talent. It's not difficult. I have decided to introduce the concept of 'lead-up games' in villages like six-a-side hockey as we used to play in the Army while stationed in the frontiers where there was not much space. This will contain all the basic skills of game like dribbling, passing, hitting, pushing and stopping the ball Maybe they wouldn't know the rules of 2-man offside, penalty-corners and 16-yard free-hit. But through this concept of "lead-up-games", we can at least teach the basic skills of our national game (hockey) to the lakhs of adivasis, tribals and villagers of Madhya Pradesh

With this end in view, I've decided to shift the hockey hostel of Madhya Pradesh from the State capital, Bhopal, to the rural district of Narsingpur where 25 promising prospects below the age of 19 would be placed under the guidance and coaching of world-famous goalkeeper Shankar Laxman. I've selected him and not an NIS coach, because, firstly, he is an army man, and secondly, because under his coaching the Services team became the national champions in 1973

News round-up

Bengal retain title

CUTTACK: Bengal retained the East Zone C K Nayudu cricket tournament, when they beat Bihar in the final, by virtue of their first innings lead at the Barabati Stadium. Bengal won the toss and elected to bat and at the end of the first day scored 201 for the loss of nine wickets due to some tight bowling by the Bihar bowlers Rajesh Dani with a hard earned 55 was the top scorer and was helped by Gautam Shome (38) and Arup Bhattacharya (23) But the last two batsmen, D Adhikary and Indranil Chatterjee frustrated the Bihar bowlers on the second day and carried the side's total to a respectful 283 Their personal contribution being 44 and 38 not out respectively Debjit Talapatra was the most successful Bihar bowler with three wickets

Arup Bhattacharya broke the backbone of the Bihar batting as he sent the batsmen reeling under his spin and the team collapsed for a meagre 114 Only middle-order batsman, Ujjal Das resisted Bengal's spin attack for quite some time to make a nagging 29. With a 169-run deficit, in the first innings, Bihar faced a follow-on, but the Bengal skipper Rajesh did not enforce it Instead Bengal added 129 quick runs, losing two wickets in 40 overs, the main scorers being Ujjal Roy with 58 not out and P Dey with 37 Since Bihar failed to maintain the scheduled rate of bowling, the champions were awarded four penalty points which further increased their total to 133 Thus Bihar were set to an impossible target of scoring 303 runs in 68 minutes and 20 mandatory overs for an outright win They, however, made a disastrous start and finished the day at 58 for six

Both Bengal and Bihar had convincing victories in their first matches of the tournament While Bengal accounted for Orissa by an innings, Bihar defeated Assam, also by an innings In the Bengal-Orissa match, the home team won the toss and elected to bat on what appeared to be a perfect wicket But they lost three quick wickets, for only six runs before Chiranjeev Biswas (34) and Akshaya Panda (37) put up some sort of resistance before their innings caved in for a paltry 138, five minutes before the tea interval For Bengal, left-arm spinner Arup Bhattacharya was the most successful bowler, claiming 3 for 43 and was ably assisted by medium pacers, Indranil Chatterjee (2 for 25) and Utpal Chatterjee (2 for 20)

Bengal started their innings on a similar note when they lost their first wicket with only seven runs on the board But skipper Rajesh Dani and the opener Kalyan Dhal stuck to their task and ended the day only 26 runs behind the Orissa total Rajesh continued from where he had left off the first day and notched up a century (106 with 15 hits to the fence) and helped his side gather a convincing tally of 320 Orissa started their second knock with a deficit of 182 runs, managed to end the second day without any further loss and amassed 44. But on the third day, they landed themselves in hot water when wickets kept falling like ninepins Only the openers, B Patnaik (39) and Gurjeet Singh (29) made worthwhile scores, as the home team were all out for 149 runs Indranil was again among the wicket-takers when he captured four Orissa wickets for 30 runs and was assisted by left-arm spinner Dipankar Adhikari who finished with 3 for 21

In the Bihar-Assam encounter, Bihar batted first and though they lost their first two wickets for 37, scored up a massive total of 415. V Jankiram topped the list with 85 and was followed by Anil Jena (79), U Das (59) and D Talapatra (42) Only one bowler from Assam got any respect—A Chakravarty who finished with 3 for 43 It was the same Jankiram, this time as a bowler, who played havoc in the Assam rank, when they came out to bat He got four wickets for 46 runs and forced Assam out for only 176 to follow-on Jankiram followed up his performance in the first innings with another deadly spell of bowling in the second when he captured five wickets for 69 and skittled Assam out for only 192, with P Kawar being the only Assam batsman to score a reasonable 58

A CORRESPONDENT

A tamasha

HYDERABAD: In these days of sycophancy, when merit takes a back-seat and loyalty is considered a basic qualification to remain in power or get power, the politicians will, naturally, stop short at nothing to occupy their chairs and impress their mentors In one such exercise aimed at bolstering his image, Indrasen Reddy, the "dynamic" president of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council, staged a weeklong 'tamasha' called the Andhra Pradesh Sports Festival to mark the completion of one year in office by the Chief Minister, Mr T Anjiah

It would be of interest to know the background in which Reddy, supposedly a Youth Congress leader, became the chief of the sports council From a party post in the youth wing of the Congress-I, Reddy was sent to New Delhi as a special representative of the State Government of cabinet rank to do some administrative work Equally surprisingly he was brought back to Hyderabad and made chief of an organisation, which was till then being run by an IAS officer in order to allow him the opportunities of gaining popularity by opening sports hostels, insurance scheme for sportsmen and so on He played a big role also in handing over of the Gymkhana ground to the Hyderabad Cricket Association for building a stadium, to be named after the late Sports and Finance Minister G Rajaram

Apart from this, he (Reddy) was allegedly instrumental in making A. S V Prasad the deputy director of NIS (south), Bangalore It may be recalled that Prasad was thrown out of office on political grounds by the then Chief Minister Dr Chenna Reddy, who had some problems with Rajaram Dr Chenna Reddy removed not only the APSC secretary, but also the Sports Minister

Unlike other politicians, however, Indrasen Reddy is playing a sensible role to settle the dog-fights among the council officials The farewell party hosted by the affiliated associations for Prasad was a good example of his shrewd and calculating mind When one of the secretaries asked Indrasen Reddy to garland Prasad, he set a good precedent by asking his secretary Ramakrishnaiah, who earlier humiliated Prasad by serving memos for no apparent reason, to do it As if this was not enough, he was even asked to speak on Prasad's achievements Poor Ramakrishnaiah had no option but to praise Prasad

Coming back to the festival, it is claimed by the organisers that only Rs 21,000 were spent over the whole week in conducting the stunt which was aimed at getting more grants from the State Government next year It is claimed that nearly 15 State affiliated associations, set up for the promotion of various games, joined hands probably for the first time to raise a substantial part of the amount spent to conduct the show Indeed, they had a motive to do so If the government is impressed by the festival (it is bound to) they stand a good chance to gain something substantial in the shape of higher grants in the coming years

According to sports council sources, the yearly grants have recently been raised to Rs 1.5 crores. The amount is likely to be doubled next year Whatever might be the objective of the APSC in hosting the show, it at least succeeded in getting more money from the government One wonders whether this was the sole objective of the extravaganza *Sportsworld* gathers that most of the affiliated associations, who promised to conduct the tournaments in their respective games (except volleyball, handball, athletics, cricket and tennis) were given prizes though they did not conduct any events in the ten-day festival

In the women's cricket final, Andhra Pradesh Sports Council President's XI defeated Andhra Pradesh Women's Cricket Association XI by 80 runs

In the tennis finals, Anand Kumar Misra crowned himself with a double, when he won the junior and doubles titles

Prominent winners among the women athletes were, Nalini Rajaratnam (100m), T Premavati Singh and Prameela Ramakrishnaiah (discus).

M S SHANKAR

Nitin Puri wins Times of India title

BHOPAL: Top seed and last year's runners-up Nitin Puri of Delhi bagged the men's singles title defeating Ran ' Kumar, the 7th seed, 21-14, 21-16, 19-21, 21-15 in the recently-concluded Times of India Open table tennis tournament, held at the BHEL club, here. The women's title went to Laxmi Karanth, who defeated Meena Bora of Delhi in straight sets

Ran Kumar, who caused two upsets by beating defending champion and second seeded Sudhir Phadke and third seeded Ravi Vashishth in the quarter-final and semi-final respectively, failed to match Puri's speed and accuracy Puri proved that he belonged to a distinctly higher class He also made short work of the 4th seeded G Vishvanath in the semi-final.

In the boys' singles final Satbir Singh of Delhi defeated Karnataka's Vasant Bharadwaj in an entertaining battle The Karnataka left-hander rallied spiritedly to catch his rival after being 0-3 down at one stage, but the tall Sikh left no stone unturned to grab the first game at 21 17 The next two sets, however, were one-sided affairs in which Bharadwaj clearly regained and maintained his supremacy over the Delhi boy But in the fourth set when the score stood at 16-all,Satbir played with great determination and won it magnificently

Finally when Satbir struck three consecutive winners to take the final set at 21-16, the crowd—the biggest ever—applauded both the players

On the other hand, Madhuri Sathe won the girls' singles crown defeating her MP team mate Anjali Gandapule

The boys' sub-junior title was won by Vasant Bharadwaj who edged out Sanja Mehta of Madhya Pradesh.

ARUN ARNAW

Railway lift the show

CALCUTTA: A state of gloom enveloped the 20th Junior National Weightlifting which was conducted at the Kshudiram Stadium It was due to the sudden death of one of the competitors, T Ramesh of Kerala who was drowned at one of the ponds in the city Ramesh, along with a few of his friends had gone to the pond to swim, as they had done the day before his death He dived into the water but did not surface After a lot of effort the body was fished out by one of the local boys after the people from the police and fire brigade had failed in their attempts. Due to the sudden death, Kerala withdrew from the championship and the participants voluntarily contributed money, which amounted to nearly Rs 5,000.

The championship was divided into nine categories· flyweight (52 kgs), bantamweight (56), featherweight (60), lightweight (67.5), middleweight (75), lightheavyweight (82 5), middleheavyweight (90), heavyweight (100) and superheavyweight (above 100) The overall team championship was won by the Railway boys with a total tally of 93 points, followed by Punjab (81) and Tamil Nadu (50).

The competition in the individual flyweight division was not that fierce as Bargeesh Chand of Railways easily won the honours with a total weight of 192 5 N Kumaran of Tamil Nadu and S Choudhury of Railways tied for the second spot with a total of 185 points The bantamweight was won by Daljit Singh of Haryana, while the featherweight division was won by V J. Gupta with a total of 202 5 kgs. He was followed by Bengal's Rupak Das (195) and S Vedkrishna (192.7) There was only one national record in the championship, which went to the credit of N C Naidu of Andhra Pradesh He won the lightweight division with a total of 232 5, but his record came when he jerked 137 5 kgs He beat the record held by Sadhan Chandra Deb of 135 kgs which was established in 1966

Anil Sood of Railways, with a total of 235 kgs came first in the middleweight class and was followed by Sekhar Saha of the Post and Telegraph and Punjab's Jaspal Singh The light heavy title went to Iswar Singh of Punjab with a total of 232 5 kgs and was very closely followed by K Satyanarayan of Andhra Pradesh with 230 kgs Rajasthan's Narendra Singh won the middleheavy division and his State colleague, Arnest Berry the heavy class, while A Shivkumar of Tamil Nadu won the superheavy category

A CORRESPONDENT

New enthusiasm in Bihar sports

PATNA: The low-key sports activities in the Universities of Bihar are likely to be happily disturbed by the enthusiastic manner in which Ranchi University is planning to promote sports and games in the different campuses in the State Already Rs 500,000 have been earmarked by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr A K Dhan

The sports departments in the Universities of Bihar are, by and large, managed by the teachers in co-operation with the physical training instructors The utter ineffectiveness of the old system of sports management by the PTIs being increasingly felt, especially in contrast to the benefit the boys and girls elsewhere are getting from coaches trained either at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala or at the Lakshmibai College of Physical Education, Gwalior, the Ranchi University has appointed five NIS-trained coaches, and also Raphael Hans, a former national junior sprint champion, and a director of physical education

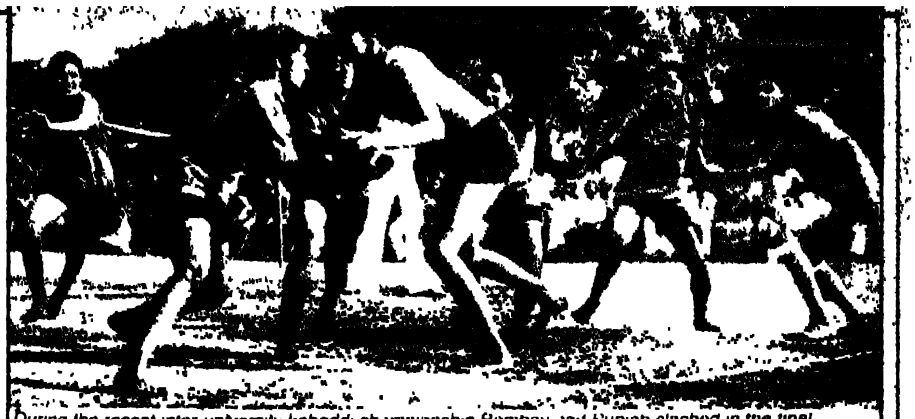
This year, the R U officials have also proved ahead of other universities in the State by holding coaching camps for several games So far camps for volleyball, football, hockey (men and women) and basketball have already been held and more such camps for the other games like badminton, table tennis, athletics, volleyball (women) and hockey (women) are going to begin shortly For developing the last two games especially, the university is going to leave no stone unturned because, as the keyman in its sports department, Prof M L Das, a former Bihar State volleyball player said, "the university would be hosting the All-India Inter University Women's Hockey championship and North Zone Inter University Women's Volleyball tournament in the coming months "

The two competitions are likely to prove greatly successful as the Vice Chancellor has asked the best talents in the university to ensure that things go very smoothly Only qualified people will be allowed to supervise the matches

The Varsities Volleyball tournament (North Zone) is slated for November 20 to 30 at Jamshedpur, while the Women's Hockey championship (all-India) will be played at Ranchi in the third week of December

That the R U Vice-Chancellor means business is clear from his direction to all the 84 affiliated and constituent colleges under it that participation in the Inter College Athletics competition, to be held at Chaibasa in the first week of December, is a must No excuses will be entertained

DILIP KUMAR



During the recent inter-university kabaddi championship Bombay and Punjab clashed in the final Ultimately Bombay won the title after a hard-fought battle

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Helped Trumper put on 298 in 69 minutes

He was one of the most brilliant all-rounders in the history of cricket. He played in Tests for England and for an Australian XI in New Zealand. He figured in sensational partnerships with Hobbs and Trumper.

As a schoolboy he created such a reputation as a batsman and medium pace bowler—in four seasons at Repton he scored 2,098 runs and took 224 wickets—that he was invited to play for Surrey at the age of 17. He was an immediate success, bowling unchanged throughout both innings of a match against Gloucester and taking, in all, 10 wickets for 78.

Twice in succession he completed the double for Surrey and failed to do so a third time by two wickets. At 19 he was the youngest player until Brian Close (18) to achieve the double in first-class cricket (in 1906). This remarkable cricketer—a right-handed batsman who delighted in straight driving and a medium pace bowler with easy delivery, accuracy and ability to make the ball move considerably—represented England against South Africa and Australia. In Australia with the 1907-08 England party he headed the Test bowling averages with 30 wickets at 24.79 runs each. Victor Trumper said he was the most difficult bowler of his pace he had played against except Sydney Barnes. During the 1907-08 tour he was approached about settling in Australia.

In his book *100 Not Out, A Century of Cricket on Adelaide Oval*" Sidney Downer wrote: "He proved responsive to feelers extended to him by both the South Australian Cricket Association and St. Peter's College—from the association as playing coach and from the college as sportsmaster. "A subsequent dispute with Surrey decided the matter for him. Satisfactory terms among the three parties were agreed to and the Surrey all-rounder arrived in Adelaide at the beginning of the summer of 1909-10, first appearing for South Australia in a match against New South Wales."

"Wisden recorded largely thanks to his wonderful cricket, South Australia won the game by 166 runs. "Downer pointed out that in the four seasons in which he played for South Australia the tall bespectacled Englishman did something few cricketers achieve in a lifetime—he made more than 1,000 runs and took more than 100 wickets (precise figures were 1,512 runs at an average of 40.86 and 120 wickets at an average of 23.86).

After World War I the Englishman returned home and played again with Surrey. He shared a match-winning stand of 96 in 32 minutes with Jack Hobbs against Kent in 1919 and in the same season played what was described as the innings of his life. Going in at No. 8 against the A.I.F. side at The Oval, he hit 144 not out. When Tom Rushby, the last man, reached the wicket, Surrey needed 15 to avoid a follow-on, but the hero of the onslaught in New Zealand attacked the Australian bowling with such ferocity that 80 runs were added in 35 minutes, Rushby's share being two!

QUESTION 1

Who was the magnificent cricketer who in all first-class matches hit 9,470 runs at an average of 32.76 and took 815 wickets at 20.06 and brought off 117 catches?

On the New Zealand tour on which he shared with the Englishman the breath-taking 298 stand Victor Trumper figured in another extraordinary partnership. The tour was organised by Sir Arthur Sims, Lincolnshire-born resident of New Zealand who played a few matches for the Australian team, which, in addition to Trumper, included M.A. Noble, Warwick Armstrong, Herbert Collins and Arthur Mailey.

Playing against Canterbury at Christchurch in February, 1914, Trumper and Sims were associated in a partnership of 433—in 190 minutes. Of Australia's total of 653 Trumper made 293 and Sims 184. It was Victor Trumper's last century in big cricket. He died the following year. The Trumper-Sims stand set a world record for first-class cricket that still stands.

QUESTION 2

For what wicket?

When Alan Knott and Geoff Boycott shared a partnership of 215 in the third Test of the 1977 series against Australia, at Trent Bridge, they equalled the England record for the sixth wicket against Australia—the record set at The Oval in 1938 during Sir Leonard Hutton's historic 364. In breaking Sir Donald Bradman's Test record of 334—Sir Garfield Sobers had yet to appear with his 365 not out—Sir Leonard figured in partnerships which still stand as records for England in Tests against Australia.

One was the 215 for the sixth wicket, equalled in 1977 by Knott and Boycott, the other 382 for the second wicket.

QUESTION 3

Who were Sir Leonard's partners in these two stands?

Both of these English records are lower than the corresponding partnership records by Australians. Sir Donald Bradman figured in both—346 for the sixth wicket, 451 for the second.

QUESTION 4

Who were his partners?

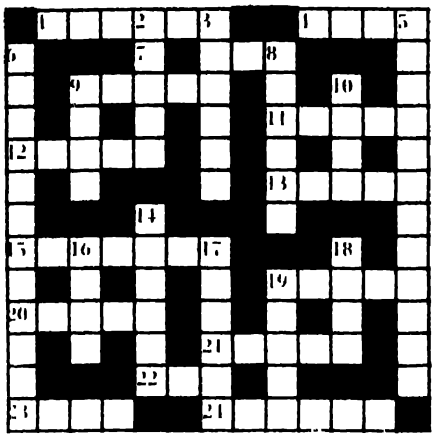
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1. **Wazir, Mushtaq and Sadiq. In the match in which Hanif scored 499 Wazir was captain and made 31 and Mushtaq, batting at No. 6, made 21.**
2. **Aftab Baloch. Only younger Test player is Mushtaq, who was 15 years and 124 days when he made his debut for Pakistan against the West Indies at Lahore, 1958-59, and scored 14 in the first innings before becoming first victim of a Wesley Hall hat-trick. (In the second innings he made four).**
3. **Off spinner Don Blackie and left-arm spinner Bert Ironmonger. Ironmonger was 45 years and 237 days when he played in the first Test of the 1928-29 series, in Brisbane. In the second Test, in Sydney, Blackie made his debut at 46 years and 253 days.**
4. **Ironmonger, fifth Test, 1933, in Sydney. He distinguished himself by catching Harold Larwood when the famous bowler, sent in as a nightwatchman, was within two runs of his century.**
5. **Rhodes, 52 years 165 days, Grace, 50 years 320 days, Gunn, 50 years 303 days.**
6. **James Southerton, who appeared in the first two Tests ever played, against Australia, in Melbourne, 1876-77.**

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

120



ACROSS

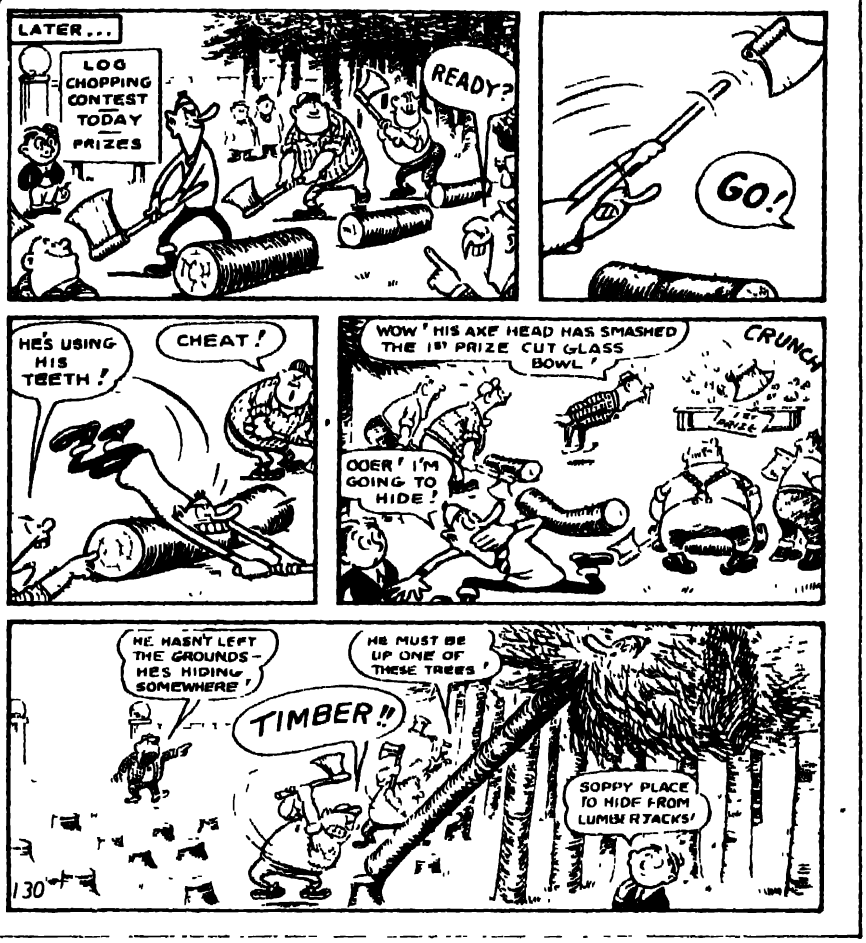
1 Indian Cassius at Merdeka (6)
4 Racy trees (4)
7 Indian sports body is incorrectly less egoistic (1, 1, 1)
9 Cricket dances? (5)
11 A gentle North Indian cricketer (5)
12 Dalmatians and billiard-balls! (5)
13 This race course ends in the Highlands (5)
15 English fast bowler loaded guns! (6, 1)
19 To do well in sport you have to travel a lot on this vehicle? (5)
20 Youthful international Scottish footballer (5)
21 Pride of British Rugby (5)
22 Not nine, but one comes back (3)
23 I sat and adapted myself to this Indian Olympian (4)
24 Makes his mark in sport? (6)

DOWN

2 Denote grades in judo (5)
3 Egyptian God begins this Pakistani hockey international (6)
5 Author of Running Tree (9, 3)
6 The king is the object of their attack (5, 7)
8 Indian cricketer is wise at the start (6)
9 Leather kick (4)
10 Returning, prolonged unconsciousness after K O (4)
14 Quite a keen footballer at the start (6)
16 Delhi, and now Bengal cricketer's Christian name (4)
17 England's greatest diver needs assistance in flight (6)
18 Satisfy examiner in bridge (4)
19 Only lifter to set world records in four different body weight categories (1, 4)

(Solutions next week)

SPORTY



Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

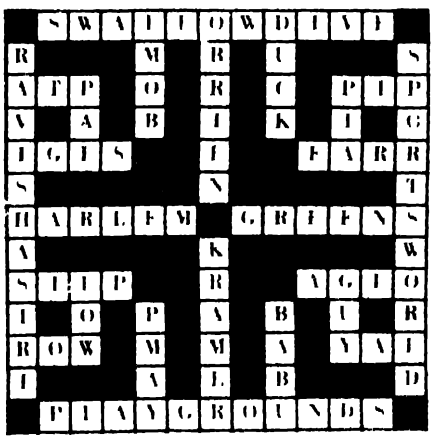
Why did the following places come into news very recently?

1 Taipei
2 Sharjah (UAE)
3 Brisbane
4 Lahore
5 Gangtok
6 Mexico
7 Sydney
8 Baden Baden (FRG)

ANSWERS

1 2nd Invitation World Soccer Cup for women
2 Zone 9' Chess tournaments
3 Pre Commonwealth Games
4 Third' and last unofficial cricket Test between the touring International XI and Pakistan
5 Third All-India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament
6 Second World Cup volleyball competition for women
7 Third FIFA World Youth Cup Soccer championships
8 The XIth Olympic Congress

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 119



Question box

Narendra Kumar Tripathi, Gorakhpur.
Q. In how many Tests Denis Lillee completed 200 wickets?
A. In 38 Tests

Kishore Kumar Das, Parlakhemundi
Q How many Tests did Vinoo Mankad play how many runs did he make and how many wickets did he take?

A. Vinoo Mankad scored 2,109 runs and captured 162 wickets in 44 Tests

Hyder Shankar Hayat, Danapur Cantt, C.M Girish, Bangalore; Khurshid Alam, Jamshedpur
Q What is the Test record of Salim Durrani?
A. 1,202 runs in 50 innings of 29 Tests with twice not out, average 25 04 and 75 wickets at an average of 35 42

Kedar Prasad, Rajgangpur
Q. What is India's lowest total, against whom and when India made it?
A 42 against England at Lord's in 1974

Reyazuddin H. Baxi, Bhuj.
Q. What is Test batting record of Bill Lawry?
A. 67 Tests, 123 innings, 12 not outs, 5,234 runs, 210 highest score, 47 15 average, 13 centuries, 27 half centuries

M.Srinivas, Raichur.
Q Is it true that Sir Don Bradman had scored a century in just 3 overs? If so, please give the details of his glorious feat
A. Yes, Bradman did score a century in just three 8-ball overs in a second-class match at Lithgow in 1930-31 He hit 6,6,4,2,4,4, 6, 1 (33) in the first over, 6,4,4,6,6,4,6,4 (40) in the second over and his partner O Wendel II got a single, then Bradman made 6,6,1, partner got a single and again Bradman made 4,4 and 6 (27) in the third and completed his individual century

Tridip Sircar, Cuttack.
Q. When was the first Test between India and England played? Who were the rival skippers and what was the result of the Test?
A At Lord's in 1932 when D R Jardine led England and C K Nayudu captained India England won the Test by 158 runs

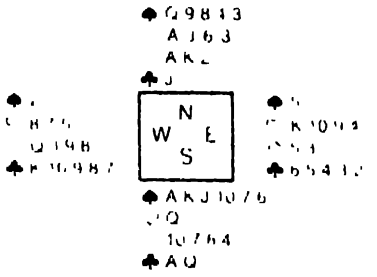
Dharmendra K.Parekh, and R.M.Doshi, Ahmedabad.
Q. What are the Ranji and Test records of Kapil Dev?
A. Kapil Dev has made 1,150 runs at an average of 26 74 and captured 125 wickets conceding 26 77 runs per wicket in 32 Tests and in 22 Ranji matches, he has hit 781 runs and bagged 83 wickets.
Q. In the last World Cup, Kapil Dev captured only one wicket Which was that wicket, and in which match did he take it?
A. Kapil Dev got 2 wickets—first he claimed Desmond Haynes of West Indies and then Wettimuny of Sri Lanka.

S.R.Viswanathan, Calcutta.
Q. What is the full name of Chauhan? When, where and against whom did he make his Test debut?
A. Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan made his debut in the 1st Test vs New Zealand at Bombay in 1969-70

Bridge

Peter Schapiro

I sometimes wonder just how popular the club systems in tournament bridge? Sometimes you come across a line of Acol or at least natural bidders but then you meet row after row of Precision players far outnumbering the Blue Clubbers nowadays In the main they are the same players one used to meet 10 or 15 years ago are they bidding better than they used to? On balance I don't think that Precision has improved anyone's bidding as far as judgment is concerned but it has led to some ridiculous errors in evaluation being avoided Yes it has some merits and some demerits So, alas, do some of the defensive measures that are commonly used!



South dealt, with North-South vulnerable and opened one-club (16+ points) West dove called with 2NT showing either a major two suiter or a minor two-suiter "Which one was it?" I asked when shown the hand) and the bidding now took off North South would have been quite content with the small slam that they reached in spades, but when East pushed on to sacrifice at seven clubs South took the push and bid seven spades

Against the grand slam West led ♥ Q and declarer took stock Had there been no opposition bidding his best bet would surely have been a club finesse, with the idea of discarding one of dummy's diamonds on ♣ A and then ruffing two diamonds But could ♣ K be right after West's overcall? (The heart finesse, even if successful, would only give 12 tricks) South planned differently He won, drew trumps and ruffed three hearts in hand to leave dummy with ♥ 2 ♣ J and himself with ♣ A Q Poor West had been reduced to ♥ Q and ♣ K and declarer now dropped ♣ K to claim his grand slam
Silence by West might have been a wonderful thing

Last week's quiz a simple question from a reader asked whether I would rather lose 500 points at game all to save a certain game, or lose 500 points when not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents (Rubber bridge, of course) Well, I always resent losing 500 points and I remember the correspondence that ensued when I expressed my views on the odds involved in bidding slams with and without a part score Nevertheless, if I lose 500 in saving I would much rather be vulnerable After all, when the dust has cleared, I am still vulnerable!

This week's quiz. perhaps a more pertinent part to last week's question - would you be *prepared* to lose 500 points (not vulnerable against vulnerable) if it prevented the opponents making game and rubber?

Chess

Peter Clarke

In *The Art of the Middle Game*, mentioned here last week, one of the key chapters is that by Paul Keres concerning the defence of difficult positions Defensive play is not greatly admired by chess fans, but it is true to say that most of the giants of the game have been very skilful at it The names that spring to mind are Steinitz, Lasker Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik, Petrosian and Fischer Although Keres gained fame as an attacker later in his career he, too, excelled as a defender and was thus well qualified to instruct in the subject The qualities needed by a defender are patience, resourcefulness and resilience he must be able to withstand the attacker's pressure without conceding too much, look for every chance to complicate the issue and be ready to hit back should the opponent slip up The following save by the second World Champion illustrates these points After falling behind both in material and positionally he managed to stem the tide and finally bring off a drawing combination

White **Emanuel Lasker**, Black **Aron Nimzowitsch**
Caro Kann Defence (at Petersburg 1914)

1 P – K4, P – QB3,	2 P – Q4, P – Q4
3 Kt – QB3, P x P,	4 Kt x P, Kt – B3
5 Kt x Ktch, KtP x Kt,	6 B – K2, B – B4
7 B – B3 Q – R4ch,	8 P – B3, P – R4
9 B x RP, Kt – Q2,	10 B – Kt4, B x B
11 Q x B, 0 – 0 – 0,	12 Kt – K2, P – K3
13 B – B4, Q – QKt4,	14 0 – 0 – 0, Kt – Kt3
15 Kt – Kt3, Q – Q4,	16 K – Kt1, Q x KtP
17 QR – Kt1, Q x BP,	18 Kt – K4, Q – R5
19 Q – B3, Kt – B5,	20 K – R1, P – KB4
21 Kt – Kt5, B – Q3,	22 B – B1, R – Q2
23 R – Kt2, B – B2,	24 KR – Kt1, Kt – Q3
25 Q – K2, Kt – K5,	26 Kt – B3, Q – R6
27 P – R3 P – RJ,	28 B – K3, KR – Q1
29 K – R2 R – R1,	30 K – R1, KR – Q1
31 K – R2, R – K1	

White has been waiting patiently to see how Black would try to improve his position but now he decides to exchange a pair of Rooks as a counter to Black's planned central advance

32 R – Kt8, R x R	33 R x Rch, R – Q1
34 R – Kt7, R – Q2,	35 R – Kt8ch, R – Q1
36 R – Kt7, R – B1,	37 P – B4, Kt – B3

Better was 37 Q R1 followed by either B Q1 or Kt B3

38 B – Kt5, Kt – R4	

The decentralisation of the Knight allows Lasker to escape by tactical means

39 R x P!, R x R,	40 Q x Pch, R – Q2
41 Kt – K5, Drawn	

If 41 B x Kt 42 Q – KBch K – B2 43 Q x Bch Black cannot avoid the repetition

Competition G490 Solution next week
Black



White
Black to play How did the game finish?

Solution to G489 (Lilienthal—Kotov, Moscow, 1948) (2kr4/Q4p2/2q1pP2.1p4B1/2p4P/3n2P1/P4P2/3R2K1—Black to play) Kotov played 37 R – Q21 and his opponent at once resigned (if the white Queen retreats 38 Kt –B5 threatens mate in two ways)
Problem No 1155 Solution next week
B Prozioni (First Prize *Problemembiad* 1957) **(8/1p2p3/1P28p2/101P1Pp1/2N1PnR1/Rp1k1N2/p3pP2/Kbn1B3—13 white men, 11 black.)**
White to play and mate in two moves
Solution to No 1154 (Funk) (rn4nr/3pR3/2q2kN1/2p2NRp/6pK/5p1/6P1/b3Q3—mate in two) 1Kt – Kt7 (threat 2 Kt – K8) (a) 1 Kt—QR3 2QxB (b) 1 Kt—KR3, 2 ktxP (c) 1 P – Q3 2 Q – K6 (d) P—Q4 2 Q—KB1

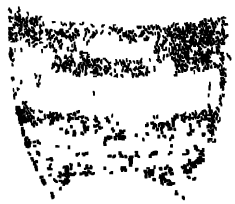


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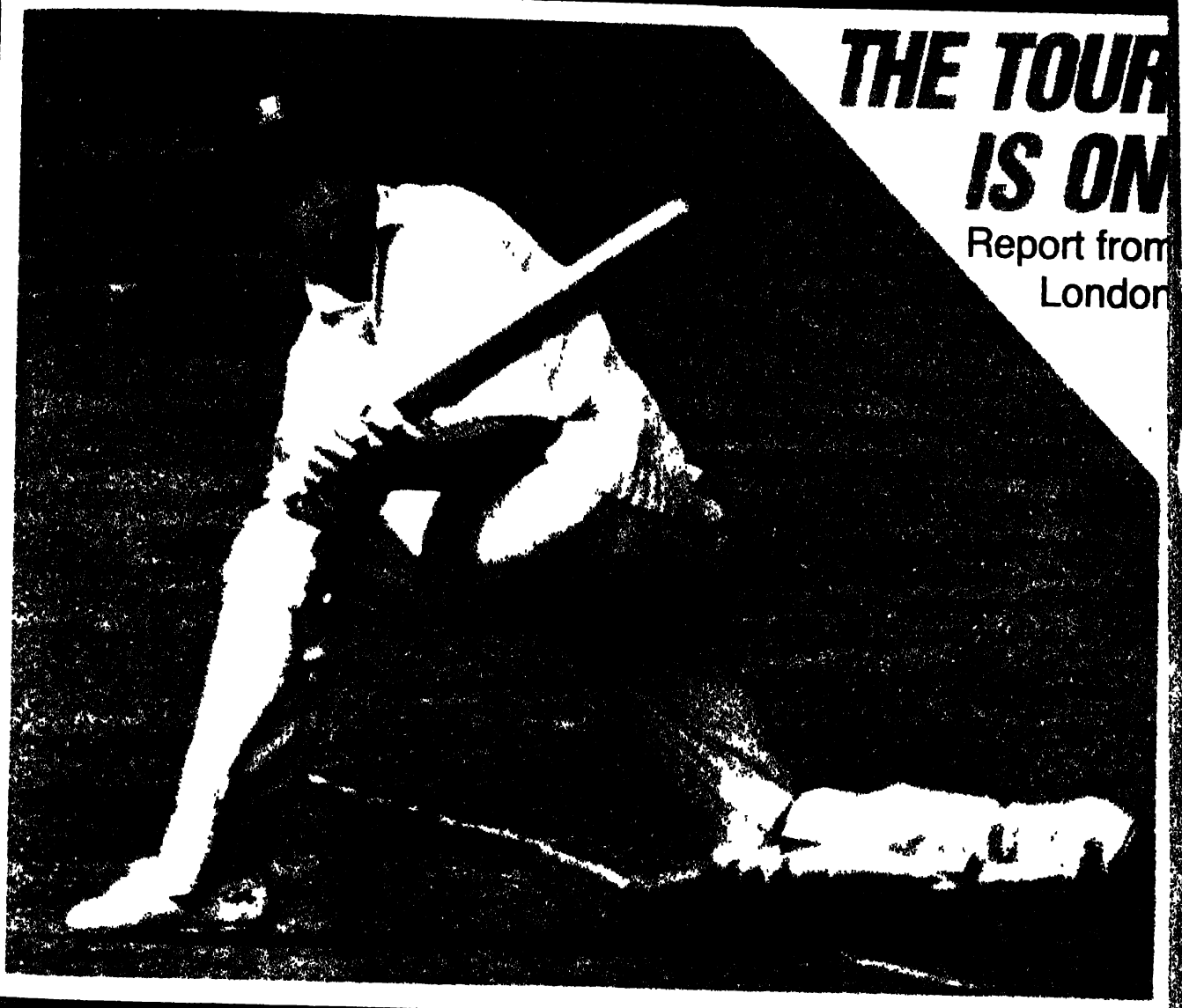
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NOVEMBER 1968

Sportsworld



THE TOUR IS ON

Report from London

Exclusive: Serialisation of the George Best story. In his own words





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Letters to the Editor

Racism and cricket

ON the eve of the tour of the English cricket team to India, the Government of India has raised objection against the inclusion of Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook as these two players are 'black listed' for their connection with South Africa. If this be the case why was Boycott allowed to take part in the 'Jubilee' Test match played in Bombay in February 1980? Why did the Indian Government remain completely silent at that time? Perhaps India had thought that she would easily defeat England. But unfortunately the result of the 'Jubilee Test' was just the opposite.

ARUP ROY
Calcutta

THE refusal of the Government of India to permit Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook to tour India is indeed a shocking blow to the world of sports. Ever since the South African Non Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) included in its black list, under the aegis of the United Nations, four English cricketers—Geoff Boycott, Geoff Cook, Paul Parker and Robin Jackman for their alleged liaison with racialist South Africa, speculation was in the air that the proposed MCC tour may be called off. The speculation was not without valid reasons. The MCC team was bound to include Geoff Boycott, who had put up such a grand performance against the Australians recently. Besides Boycott, Geoff Cook has also been included in the team. In selecting the England team the MCC team has adhered to the Commonwealth Gleneagles Accord which prohibits only sporting contacts with South Africa ignoring individual links with it.

The ban imposed on Boycott and Cook to tour India will mean possible cancellation of the MCC tour of India. The tour of New Zealand cricket team to West Indies from February to April next year has already been cancelled because of the South African rugby union team's visit to New Zealand in the middle of this year. With two cricket tours thwarted due to the apartheid policy of South Africa, international cricket faces an imminent danger.

Further between the black and white cricket playing countries also seem inevitable. If this feared split takes place, then perhaps the entire world of sport may be split into two groups—black and white.

K. R. GURURAJA RAO,
Bangalore

THE Cricket Control Board of India and the Indian Government have correctly taken the decision of not allowing Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook to tour India with the England cricket team. It is very sad that TCCB of England has not excluded those two cricketers, who are included in the black list of sportsmen, from the English side. The stubborn attitude of England might bring about, in future, a split between the Test playing countries. India cannot afford to deviate from her declared international policy of fighting against the racist policy of South Africa.

CHIRANJAN CHATTERJEE, Durgapur

Overlooked?

I HAVE come to know from a particular Bengalee magazine that Syed Modi and Anita Kulkarni, the two stars of Indian badminton, have decided to become partners in their personal life. But, surprisingly enough, no news about it was published in *Sportsworld*. The journalists give too much publicity to the Indian cricketers, hockey players and footballers, and, of course, to Prakash Padukone when it comes to badminton. They print the photographs of Padukone's fiancee also but fail to publish the news of Modi's engagement. One should remember that Modi is the reigning champion.

PRABAL GUHA,
Baliapal, North

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Fiction

PLEASE refer to the article "Why was Khodaiji annoyed" in the September 23 issue of *Sportsworld* The contents of that article are conjecture and not facts I would like to reply to the piece of fiction.

Mr Chowhan's memory is conveniently short. He has every right to convene a meeting of the selection committee, and also to brief the members of the numerical composition of the side He did that and much more—tried to participate in the deliberations of the meeting, to which I did object He is welcome to his opinion about the players, but at a selection committee meeting should have kept those to himself Next, Sujeet Mohanty claims that a few eyebrows were raised at my absence at all the selection committee meetings In fact, all mean two meetings I had in writing, advised Mr Gawde and the TTFI about my inability to attend those meetings.

Further, Mr Mohanty claims that he has sources close to the TTFI telling him stories Afraid to mention names, Mr Mohanty? He claims I harboured ambitions to become a member of the executive committee of the TTFI You call being a member of the executive committee ambition? And I have been on it for the last three years He should know that only those who have no other stature will call it ambition My long innings at the TTFI, as Mr Chowhan says, consists of being selector from 1975 to 1978, technical committee member in 1979 and 1980 and executive member (as ex-international) in 1978, 1979 and 1980. Would you like to compare Mr Chowhan's "short" innings of about 22 years with the TTFI?

Sujeet Mohanty states that there are already three members of the Maharashtra Table Tennis Association on the TTFI and their quota was over. Am I to understand that there is a quota system in the TTFI? Am I to understand that the "claims" of Madhya Pradesh and Mr Gawde must be entertained? Regarding accepting the views of the committee members, I have always done so. But I see no reason to do that about the views of Mr Chowhan, of Mr Pak U Gil, and of anyone other than the members of the committee.

And, since the selectors are attending tournaments, what are the criteria for appointing co-ordinators? What is the work of the co-ordinator at the selectors' meet unless, of course, you intend to have postal selection, and one selector not knowing whom the others have nominated? I am told that those days are over and then I receive another letter asking me to send names to Mr Gawde. Very convincing or very forgetful?

Lastly, in criticism of the previous regime, it does not quite lie in the mouths of either Mr Chowhan or Mr Gawde, or any other sources close to the TTFI to do so For, after all, they were the plaint and rubbery spines of the very regime for a short spell of 22 and 10 years respectively

FARROKH R KHODAIJI,
Bombay.

Poor selection!

BOOS to the All India Football Federation for sending such a poor side to United Arab Emirates The surprise inclusions are D'Silva, Aslam Khan, Alim Khan, C D Francis, Kartick Seth, Vijay Kumar and Narendra Gurung

Can AIFF give any justifiable reason for not including Atanu Bhattacharjee, Krishnendu Roy, Bidesh Bose, Manash Bhattacharjee, Harjinder Singh, Amalraj, Shabbir Ali, Prasun Banerjee and C B Thappa? Was the team selected on the basis of talents or just for a pleasure trip to U A E ? Further, why was Xavier Pius made captain of the side? There were many other experienced players in the side like Bhaskar Ganguly, Subrata Bhattacharya, Mihir Bose and Prasanta Banerjee

SHARMILA GUHA,
Baliyan North.

Editor's page



SINCE ordinary scribes are not privy to the inner-most workings of Governments, one can only presume the camouflaged pressures which nearly forced New Delhi to cancel the English tour. Was it a fear that the prestigious Asian Games would be boycotted by some Asian countries? Was the idea to placate those African countries which not only absorb hundreds of crores worth of Indian exports but also look up to India as an example which has inspired many a freedom movement in their own continent? Or was it the threat of agitations in the north by separatist movements, the non-Congress Government in Bengal and, of course, by the ever ready Mr George Fernandes elsewhere?

Or are we seriously to believe that by this action India expected to isolate South Africa in international sports? If the last was the belief, it is more than likely that the result would have been a direct split in the sporting world with the white countries including South Africa in one block and the more colourful ones in another. In fact, there is no guarantee that even Pakistan or Sri Lanka would have supported India's line of action. Because if this kind of decision is carried to a logical end, a number of Indian sportsmen who have played with or against South Africans should surely be prevented from representing their country. And where would that have left the Amritrajs, Kapil Devs, Dilip Doshis and others? Certainly in a more precarious position than either Boycott or Cook, who have not been disowned by their own people.

Fortunately, some sense has prevailed in this case, but the future of the World Cup hockey, to be played in Bombay later this year, still hangs in the balance, while New Delhi is trying to fathom the complexities and consequences of adhering to the Gleneagles Agreement and of accepting the principle of the UN black list.

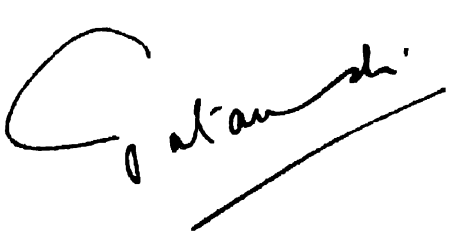
If, at the last moment, those countries which have had sporting links with South Africa are denied permission to participate, the World Cup will be a shambles and the organisers and sponsors, who have already spent over Rs 20 lakhs will be up the proverbial gum tree.

Hockey has always been considered a game which is indigenous to India, but it is a matter of fact that if the Western countries had not taken to this game, it would have been limited to the sub-continent and eventually would have died an unmourned death. Whatever the decision regarding the future of Indian hockey, it surely must have now become clear to our leaders that sports in this country can no longer be treated on a non-priority basis. It is not only the single most popular form of entertainment, but it also has many-faceted ramifications. Apart from its more innocent forms it has been used to project the viability of a particular political system, it has been used as a bartering agent, it has been used to raise huge funds and at times even in the form of blackmail. Surely, it is now time that Indian sports is given more than a cursory thought. The introduction of large committees, both at the Centre and the States, has served no constructive purpose, nor has the formation of various



Kapil Dev

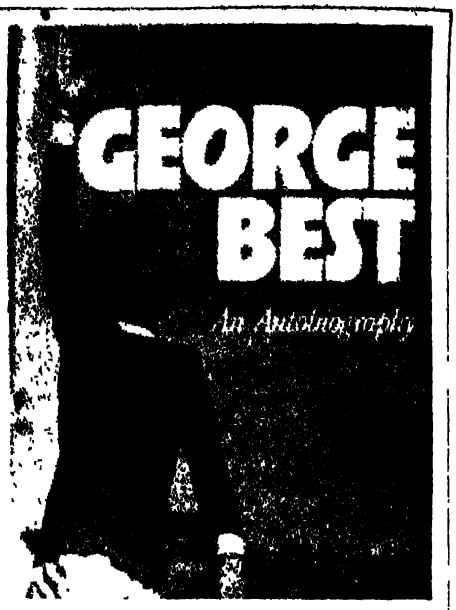
institutions to train and teach sportsmen produced any champions. The only way that India can make a mark in international sports is to select a very few chosen games and to direct all its energy for their encouragement. And not to dilute her limited resources by giving aid to a large number of disciplines.



Sportsworld Serial

First time at Old Trafford

At the age of seventeen George Best appeared for the first time at Old Trafford in 1963. It produced a tremendous feeling within him. This extract—the first in a series—describing Best's appearance at Old Trafford, is from the book "Where do I go from here? George Best—An Autobiography." This book is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co, London, and is priced £6.95.



The cover of the book

MONEY has never worried me and I can't recall, during my years at Old Trafford, ever going up and asking for a rise. I was just so happy to play. Nor did I find First Division football difficult. That's still my most vivid memory of my first team debut against West Bromwich in 1963, only a year before that memorable Chelsea game. How easy it was. I was able to go out there and do the same things I'd been doing since I was a kid. It all came so naturally to me. Whenever I got the ball I played it instinctively, just as I'd always done, so I never had time to worry about trying this or trying that.

Marking me they had Graham Williams, a Welsh international left back with a reputation as a hard but fair defender, and after I'd taken a knock on the ankle in the first half the Boss switched me to the left wing in the second. I was to play many more times against Graham over the years and I remember meeting him at some function a few years after he'd retired. He came up and said he wanted to look at me face to face. All he'd ever seen of me was my backside and the number on my shirt. Not a hundred per cent true, but a nice compliment from a likeable and talented fellow pro.

After the West Brom game it was back to the Reserves and even the Junior sides with my mates until Christmas. I was at home in Belfast on holiday when a telegram arrived telling me to report to Old Trafford urgently. That period around Christmas and New Year was often a bad time for injuries, not enough recovery time between games—and I thought they needed me to play in the Reserves. In fact I was so sure that I had the cheek to insist they fly me back to Belfast afterwards so I'd have more time with my family.

My father was more confident.

"They'd only send you a telegram if they wanted you for the first team," he said, with that working class instinct that automatically acknowledges the importance of a telegram.

"No way," I told him. "I'll be lucky to get a game for the Reserves."

So we took a little bet on it and my father won. After being thrashed 6-1 at Burnley on Boxing Day, United dropped both their wingers—Shay Brennan and Albert Quixall—and brought in Willie Anderson and myself for the return match at Old Trafford two days later. This time it was our turn for the goals. We won 5-1 and I scored my first League goal. That was a terrific thrill, just as it was going home to find my name in the local papers and my parents so quietly proud and pleased for me. After that I was a first team regular and teams like Spurs, West Ham, Everton and Liverpool would provide wonderful flowing matches in which I could happily exploit and develop my skills. The Spurs matches I remember with much affection. Even though that great side of the late Fifties and early Sixties was breaking up they still had a terrific reputation for playing attacking football, and when the two of us met the atmosphere was tremendous. Two teams expressing themselves by attacking and entertaining. There was no crowd violence at those games either. The fans were too contented bubbling with appreciation at what they were being offered on the field.

Lap of honour after the League Championship Cup in 1967. George is second from right



LOOKING back on them, these were some of the happiest days of my life. I was doing what I'd crossed the water to do, play football for one of the greatest clubs in the world. And now that I'd signed professional forms—in 1963, on my seventeenth birthday—I no longer had the hassle over outside employment which had

bugged me ever since my arrival at Old Trafford. In those days the Scottish and Irish Football Associations insisted that any youngster going to an English club before he was seventeen must sign as an amateur, work in an outside job and train part time only. This was to stop the flow of talented kids from Scotland and Northern Ireland, but to me it was an anathema. It meant I couldn't train full time with the other apprentices, and it only helped increase the feeling of insecurity which drove me more and more into my self containment during those first uncertain months.

I'd already been turned down by Glentoran because I was too small and when I first went across to Old Trafford I could never see why this important English club should have any interest in some five feet tall weakling who'd been rejected by a Belfast club. The apprentices looked so fit, and so big. Eric McMordie with whom I'd travelled for the trial, was just like me, a skinny little Belfast kid with a flat broad accent, and when we looked at the lads we were going to train and play with, we were convinced there was no way we would make it. What we forgot, of course, was that between fifteen and seventeen you start growing taller and filling out, and the club made sure you were given the right food. But we were both homesick and naive; we hadn't even known the Lancashire cricket ground was called Old Trafford and had looked at the taxi driver as if he was crazy when he asked 'Which Old Trafford?' at the station. That night, in our digs at a Mrs Fullaway's in Chorlton, all we could think about was going home. Eric especially; he missed his family, he hated Manchester, and I felt if he went back, I wasn't going to stay there on my own.

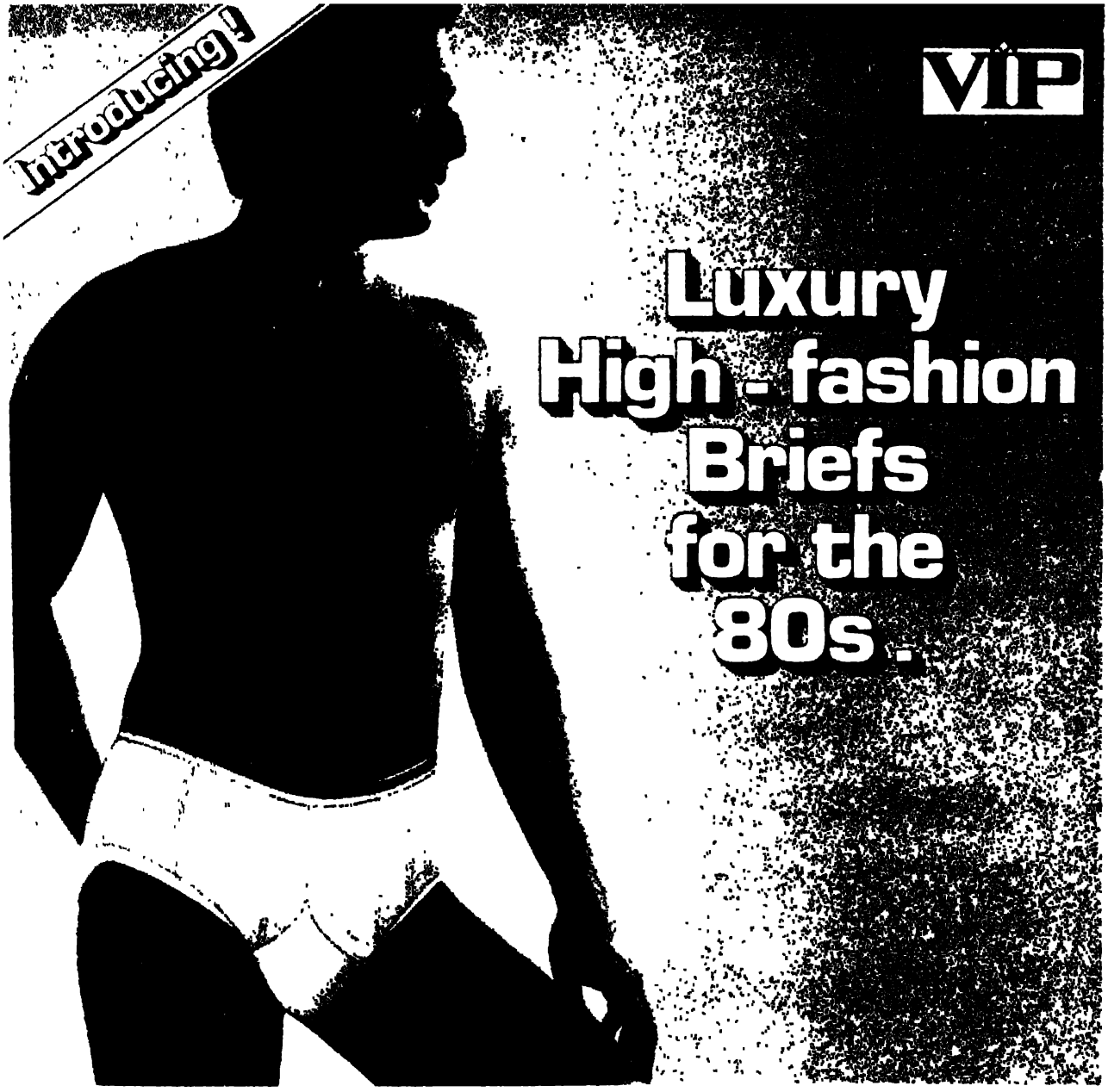
The next morning when Joe Armstrong, United's chief scout, came by for us, Eric told him we wanted to go home on the next boat. The look on Joe's face was worth remembering. He just couldn't believe it. Eric had been on United's books since he was thirteen, and now he was telling them he didn't want to stay even for a trial. Joe looked at me, and I kind of nodded. I didn't have Eric's cheek; it took me all my time to look at Joe.

The Spur matches I remember with much affection. Even though that great side of late Fifties and early Sixties was breaking up, they still had a terrific reputation for playing attacking football, and when the two of us met the atmosphere was tremendous.

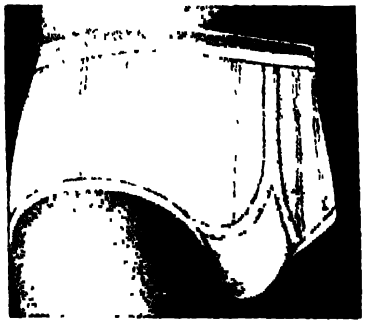
THE club were good about it, though, and that same day we caught the night ferry home to Belfast. When my mother came to the door the next morning she nearly had a heart attack. She was sure I'd been up to mischief in the short time I was away, and that they'd sent me home. No one could believe I'd simply packed my bag and come home, turned down the opportunity every kid in the country dreamed of. But my father understood, and he played it cool. Didn't try to push me into going back straightaway, but gave me time to think how stupid I might have been. Without my knowing it he spoke to the club and was assured by Mr Busby that United would still like me over there. Then, when he saw how much I regretted not making the most of my chances, he said he'd had a phone call from Mr Busby and that Manchester United wanted me to go back. It was great psychology, but of course I didn't think of that then. I jumped at the news and the following day I was back at Mrs Fullaway's, which was to be my home for all but a brief part of my Manchester days. Eric wasn't so lucky. He got one hell of a hiding from his father, and no second chance. Later, however, he signed for Middlesbrough, and we had numerous happy experiences and escapades

1963: A youthful 18 but already displaying the genius that drew comparisons with Mathews and Finney and was to make Best football's first pop idol



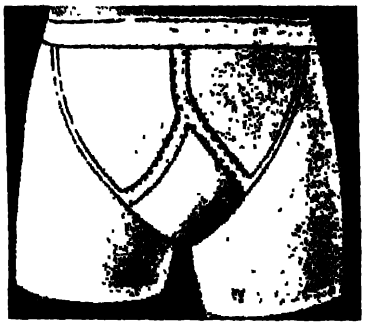


The One-Up



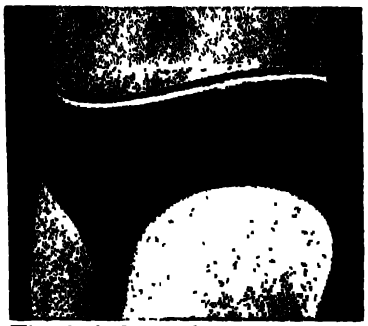
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Those first weeks at Old Trafford were made hell by doubts, only on the pitch did I stop worrying, because then I could justify my presence by my skills. Not that I had any confidence that my skills were greater than those of others on trial. Every day we'd train, play some five-a-side, join in games with the amateurs and apprentices, and meet our heroes – the first team players. Being Irish, the high light was meeting players like Harry Gregg and Jimmy Nicholson. Harry Gregg was already an Irish folk hero, a survivor of the Munich air disaster that gave him a special aura, even if it didn't stop me sending him the wrong way twice in a five-a-side match at The Cliff training ground. That was me, though. Off the field I didn't know what to say to him, on the field he was just another footballer to turn it on against.

But many times I walked away from that training ground wondering if it was for the last time. Maybe it was because no one seemed to take much notice of me. I remember feeling out of it because I had to catch a bus to Old Trafford, whereas some of the other boys were within walking distance. There were probably just as many travelling by bus but I didn't notice them. And as I would learn later, no one thought it necessary to reassure me of my place there because they thought I took it for granted. I'd be offered forms. But no – even as the first week became two, and two moved on to three – I was always expecting the sympathetic hand on my shoulder and those end-of-the-world words, 'I'm sorry, George.' So many other kids, players I thought looked better than me, had come and gone, just disappeared. You'd turn up one morning, someone wouldn't be there, and you'd overhear one of the other lads saying 'He's gone home. They sent him home.' A lot of the time you never had the chance to say goodbye.

EVEN among the lads who stayed on there was so much talent that I used to wonder how I could make it to the top. Just in my position alone – I was playing at inside forward – there were people like Eamonn Dunphy, Barry Fry, Barry Grayson, Sammy McMillan, Phil Chisnall and Dave Latham all vying for a place. I used to think that if I had to sit around and wait in line I was never going to get a game. Obviously that isn't the way it works. A lot of promising youngsters seem to reach a certain point where they blossom quickly or stagnate. Then, too, others are late developers. But if you have the talent you come through, as I discovered that week in September 1963 when I couldn't find my name on the team sheets for the Reserves or the Junior sides. For a moment I thought I'd been dropped, and I don't know what it was that made me look at the first team-sheet. But there I was, not as a player but as a reserve for the match at Old Trafford against West Brom. What I didn't know was that Ian Moir, who was listed to play on the right-wing, had a groin strain and that the Boss thought I was ready for a run at the top. The only reason they didn't tell me on the Friday was to save me lying awake all night with nerves. They needn't have bothered. That's something I've never been troubled by. But I was in a daze when the Boss took me aside at lunch – we used to go to a local golf club for our pre-home match meals – and told me I was playing. I remained in that daze until we left for the ground.



West Ham and England captain Bobby Moore is left watching as George rounds the last defender to set up one of their six goals that clinched the 1966-67 League Championship for Manchester United. John Aston is the United player in support.

Best at 19, enjoying every moment of his football life.



Actually playing for the first time at Old Trafford remains to this day impossible to explain. But I'll always remember that tremendous feeling of running down the tunnel and out on to the pitch. As you emerge from the tunnel the crowd directly opposite are the first to spot the players and that's when it starts. This enormous roar. As you come out on to the pitch it's almost as if some giant hand is turning up the volume control: the noise just gets louder and louder until it seems to reach an ear-shattering climax. I'd experienced nothing like it in my life. It was the first time the hairs on the back of my neck ever stood to attention. Even later in my career playing at Liverpool or Benfica's Estadio da Luz or in front of 130,000 at Real Madrid's Bernabeu Stadium nothing quite compared with that first time at Old Trafford. It will be there until I die. Once the game was under way I was obvious of the noise, though I think subconsciously you're affected by the swell of crowd sounds. Didn't Dick Francis think it might have been the wave of applause that caused Devon Loch to sprawl and fall when he was well clear on the run-in in the 1956 Grand National? But however well you can shut out the noise, you can't escape an awareness of the atmosphere, especially somewhere like Old Trafford. There's a special feeling at that place, even if you're standing on the empty terraces in the middle of summer with the goalposts gone, the grass growing long and the only sound the banging of workmen's hammers echoing around the stands.

THE TOUR IS ON

In a dramatic, last-minute reversal of its stance, the Indian Government has allowed the MCC to tour the country with Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook. ASHIS RAY recounts entire episode from London

AND, so, Keith Fletcher's side are in India Three one day internationals and six Test matches ahead of them, their thoughts, as also the ruminations in the home camp, are now restricted to cricket Tactics and strategy rather than political pressures, the worry for the next three months

Yet, only a week before the team departed from England, the tour was virtually off All 16 members of the team, geared up for India, were a sad and disappointed lot, faced with the somewhat unattractive alternative of a visit to New Zealand, where not only were the Test and County Cricket Board likely to lose money, but where the atmosphere for the game is not quite the same as in India

What saved the tour? After 11 days of agony, it was the statement made by James Victor Gbeho, Ghana's permanent representative in the United Nations and the chairman of the UN sub committee dealing with the implementation of UN resolutions on South Africa, in London on Monday, October 26 that set the ball rolling towards a solution

The smartly attired diplomat spelt out in a timely Press conference that there were three ways in which the tour can go on one, that Boycott and Cook are dropped Two, that they withdraw voluntarily and three, they give an undertaking that they will never play cricket in South Africa in future

The first two options were, naturally, highly unpalatable to the English authorities, not to mention the two players But the third choice was, obviously, one to consider But even here, the TCCB would be on risky terrain, exposed to court proceedings against them, if they forcibly prevented a cricketer from earning his bread in his country, namely Britain, deemed perfectly legal Moreover, they were averse to pressurising any player into giving a guarantee, and Boycott and Cook were said to be not particularly keen about committing themselves so unequivocally 'What if this is my last official tour,' Boycott, who turned 42 last month, must have thought While Cook must have told himself 'What if I fail in India and never get another England chance'

So, a device, a face saving formula for both parties, if you like, had to be found And it was the TCCB that took



Indira Gandhi World of cricket grateful to her

the initiative Already while the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi was in London, her attention was drawn to Boycott's observations on apartheid in his recent book

"I hate apartheid , and the system" he had said Only a few hours earlier, when arriving in the British capital, Mrs Gandhi had stated that it would make it easier for the Indian Government to allow the tour if Boycott and Cook were dropped But, apparently, on landing in Delhi she made a point of referring to the Yorkshireman's mentioned assertions

But that was not enough The TCCB having appreciated the full meaning of Mr Gbeho' views, prepared an aide-memoire for the Indian Government, which they submitted to the Indian High Commission here for onward communication to Delhi In this memo, the first point that was emphasised was the letter, which had been sent to British County cricketers in August warning them that they would be endangering their Test future if they undertook a visit to South Africa with a team of international standard The relevant paragraph in the letter said "The Board wishes to make it clear that any cricketer who takes part in any such international or representative match in South Africa could, thereby, make himself ineligible for future selection for England " In respect to the two players at the centre of the controversy, they explained That Boycott went to South Africa last winter essentially for a holiday Two that Cook took a winter job coaching youngsters of all races, while playing for Eastern province, and three, that both players have expressed themselves opposed to the principle and system of apartheid -Boycott in his book and Cook verbally It was also revealed by George Mann, chairman of the TCCB, that both players had during the crisis given assurances that they would abide by the caution contained in the TCCB letter

Of course the Indian Government must have noted that the word "could" and not "would" was used in the letter, making it sound less emphatic Indeed, they must have also taken stock of the TCCB's stance on individuals going to South Africa The TCCB, in fact, made it clear that they do not object to individuals making their own arrangements to coach or develop their careers in South Africa, and refused to ask any cricketer to give undertakings on this count In both instances, their plea was that legal constraints precluded a more strident attitude

The Indian Government dilly dallied from the day the possibility of a ban was brought under focus two months ago Unable to make up their mind, unsure of the facts, uncertain of the domestic and international implications, they put out a statement one day and contradicted it the next Finally, the fortnight's tamasha kept not just Britain but the entire Commonwealth on tenterhooks The big question was Would cricket survive? If the Indian Government were going to be satisfied with so little, why create such a fuss? Indeed, the only plus point the interim hardening of attitude might have accomplished is future vigilance on the part of all cricketing nations about encouraging any links with South Africa, even in the case of individuals going to coach multi-racial pupils But to eradicate all confusion, the ICC must adopt a resolution empowering



Geoff Cook At the centre of controversy along with Boycott

cricketing authorities to act likewise And it is also necessary to re-negotiate the draft of the Gleneagles Agreement. The accord as it stands is a useless document

But the world of cricket, and the world of sport have reason to be grateful to the Indian Government They have surely saved cricket, and probably sport, from catastrophe The crisis that has been overcome was no ordinary obstacle It was enlarging itself for days and months, and had the potential to destroy the game in its present form

The first hint of a somersault in India's attitude came with Mrs Gandhi's statement to reporters during the Cancun Summit Asked if she would change her mind about the MCC tour, Mrs Gandhi said- "There's no question of changing my mind, (pause) Because I haven't made it up yet" This, coming after the Political Advisory Committee's recommendation, meant that there was a noticeable change in the situation Then, in answer to questions in London where she stayed for just a day, Mrs Gandhi went further She praised Geoff Boycott's stand on apartheid implying that the England opener's sentiments regarding white oppression could be enough to warrant a reprieve for him She was referring to his recently published autobiography That left Geoff Cook, the debutant who came out unequivocally against the U N black list sponsored by a group in England It was hoped he would come out with a statement saying he would have no truck with South Africa hence forth

There was, thus, a stalemate when Mrs Gandhi arrived in India And she did not immediately proclaim a solution, partying reporters' questions with a "Let's see"

THE news of the alleged Indian Government decision to disbar the two players reached London on the evening of Friday the sixteenth The agency messages claimed that the Political Affairs Committee of the Indian Cabinet had decided to refuse permission to Boycott and Cook to play in India Another source embellished this point by saying that a Cabinet Minister passed on the information So, what all waited for was an official announcement But it never came Indeed, reacting to the stories in Indian papers, a Government spokesman is said to have insisted that "no final decision had been taken"

But the Indian Cricket Board communicated to their English counterpart that such a conclusion had been reached by the Indian Government, and asked for the omission of Boycott and Cook from the touring party This, the TCCB took up on Monday, and the following day issued the statement acknowledging receipt of the Indian Cricket Board telegram, and outlining their own reaction

Referring to the BCCI's request to ban the two cricketers, the TCCB responded "It will not be possible to accede to this request" But the cricket officials here added "We have offered to meet the Indians anywhere, anytime We are prepared to do anything to keep the tour alive apart from compromising our principle over the selection of the team"

They are also believed to have made out a case for the lifting of the reported ban citing that Boycott's visits to South Africa since the break in England, I's cricket relations with that country have been in the nature of holidays, while Cook, although a participant in the Currie Cup, was, at the same time coaching coloured youths in Eastern Province

These arguments were, apparently on-passed to the Indian Government



Geoff Boycott Determined to break the record of Gary Sobers

But in the absence of the Prime Minister who by this stage was in Cancun in Mexico for the North South Conference, they failed to make much headway And thus the stalemate a rather excruciating one set in Plenty of phone calls were exchanged between the Indian Board officials and Lord's, but nothing constructive emerged

Wild rumours of suggestions and counter suggestions floated around One maintained that the Indian Cricket Board had agreed to just an undertaking by Boycott and Cook Another stressed that the TCCB would provide a guarantee that no player with South African contacts would be included in future teams to India Most of them

Comments

RAMAN SUBBA ROW: *If the decision had not gone the way it has, it would have been very serious for world cricket* It would have had the effect of polarising cricket into black and white which would have done no good at all The Indian Government was in a very tricky situation, and we understood this all the way I would like to pay a tribute to them for the way they have handled the situation I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the excellent efforts put in by the Indian Cricket Board, especially S.K. Wankhede.

Now, there will be hundreds of England supporters who will go out to India and make many new friends

As for the players, the delay was unsettling, but we have put all that behind us. All I can say now is that I am absolutely delighted, and look forward to an enjoyable tour.

KEITH FLETCHER: The news came as a tremendous relief and I am absolutely thrilled I must say that the suspense of the fortnight was quite unbearable All we want to do now is to get on with the game. As far as I am concerned, sport of any kind can only bring nations closer together and I am certain even closer ties will be forged this winter

I have been fortunate enough to tour India twice before and I love the place I know just how knowledgeable the Indian public is when it comes to the finer points of cricket They worship the game in India and I know they will have welcomed their government's decision

DONALD CARR, SECRETARY TCCB: First of all, it's a feeling of great joy and relief that the tour has gone ahead, and our long-standing and very happy cricket relationship with India is continuing I am sure it will be a very interesting and exciting Test series, and I sincerely hope that the many millions of cricket lovers in India will enjoy it I know that all our players have been particularly looking forward to the Indian tour, which is quite one of the most popular the players undertake And I am prepared to stick my neck out and say England will win by two matches to one with three draws

GEORGE MANN, CHAIRMAN TCCB: We were all naturally delighted to learn that the England team, as originally selected, would be welcomed in India

During the two weeks in October, we had to come to frequent and direct communication with the Indian [illegible] Board whose president Mr [illegible] had been working



Raman Subba Row Absolutely delighted

tirelessly to ensure that the tour took place. We, however, made it clear at a very early stage that there was no question of our changing team selection, nor of requesting any player to give undertakings not to coach or play as individual in South Africa in future.

We had made very clear to the Indian Government, through the help of their High Commission in London, our total opposition to apartheid We also referred to the letter which was sent by the TCCB to all County cricketers qualified or about to be qualified for England (the letter of warning)

We also made clear the positions of Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook which were as follows

(1) Boycott went to South Africa last winter on holiday and did a little coaching

(2) Cook took a winter job coaching youngsters of all races and played for eastern province.

(3) Both players have personally expressed themselves against the principle and system of apartheid

We had explained that we do not object to and are legally unable to prevent individuals from making their own arrangements to coach or develop their careers in other countries, including South Africa, during the winter months

Finally, we are all very much looking forward to the tour of India and to seeing the Indian team in action over here again next summer

were denied, and more significant, the suspense continued

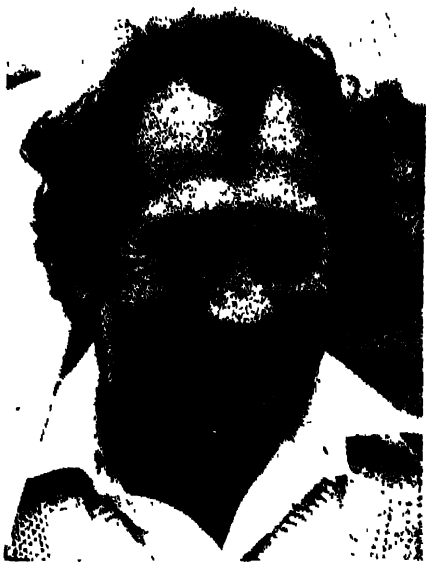
Then, Mr M.A Chidambaram, the Treasurer of the Indian Cricket Board cabled an appeal to Mrs Gandhi in Mexico, asking her to intervene. "If the tour was cancelled, it would cause an irreparable damage to Indian Cricket," the message said Prime Minister, in response, issued a statement "This is not a personal matter A lot of other people and other governments are involved "

She, in fact, expanded on this remarks on her arrival in London by saying "Many people in India would like to see the tour go on, but we have to take into account the views of other governments " Would she like the two players to be dropped, one of the newsmen asked at the airport "That would make it easier," she replied with a non-committal smile But importantly enough, she made it very clear that she was in the British capital for a holiday, and contrary to popular belief in this country, she had no intentions of sorting out the problem during this period "The final decision," she said, "would be taken in Delhi"

THE intriguing aspect of the entire episode was that everybody was acting under the assumption that a final decision had already been taken, whereas the official Indian Government stand persisted in being that no such decision had been taken It was reliably learned that the Education Ministry in Delhi had recommended that no obstacle should be posed to Boycott or Cook But the External Affairs Ministry suggested otherwise



Ian Botham The English team undoubtedly revolves around him



Keith Fletcher Will he be able to fulfil the desire of the English selectors?

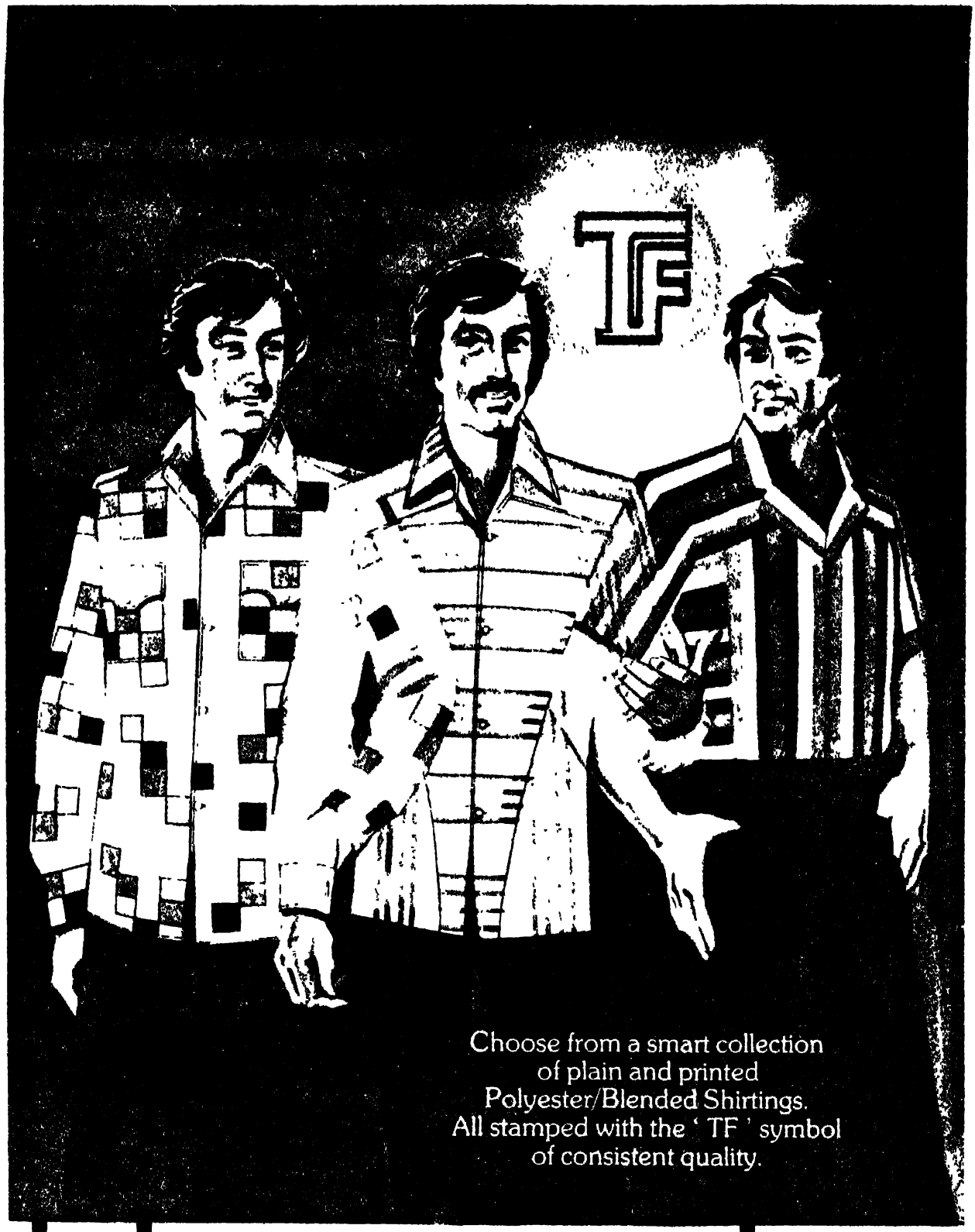
And it was the latter view that the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet favoured

This being the case, and one goes on guesswork here because of the distance, the position was purposely leaked out so as to test international and domestic opinion The Prime Minister's foreign trip gave her strategists ample time to assess the feedback, and also meet the impatience with the plausible excuse that the 'Lady was out of the country, and therefore, the verdict had to wait until her return A wonderful ploy, despite the pains suffered by the players in both camps, whose primary interest was cricket, and the politics of South Africa a somewhat remote subject

Now, apart from tactical angle, was the Indian Government right in stiffening its attitude? It certainly was, although people obsessed with cricket would probably disagree For a start, United Nations resolutions make it very clear that where political persuasion fails, economic and other sanctions may be used against a country. And the South African regime being one of the most heinous in history, no effort should be spared to isolate it, and thereby force it to abandon apartheid Another resolution, in fact, clarifies the position regarding the amalgamation of sport and politics by defining when it comes to South Africa, there is no distinction between politics and sport

But, while these motions are more or less binding on all UN member countries, the more detailed follow up actions, like the creation of a black list of sportsmen, are not, the reason being, this matter has not, as yet, been debated in the UN General Assembly, and even if it were to be adopted, all countries abstaining from or opposing the vote, would be within their rights to ignore it Yet, matters were quite smooth sailing until blatant violation of agreements, like the one by New Zealand in allowing the Springbok

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Chris Tavare England batting is dependent on him

rugby tour, turned everything topsy-turvy as it were The anti-apartheidists focussed attention on Jackman, and got the Guyana Test cancelled New Zealand's cricket tour of West Indies was then called off. All of a sudden the momentum for an all-round sporting boycott of South Africa, with severe penalties for non-cognizance, picked up. Incited by the New Zealand action, most Afro-Asian countries appeared to become more sensitive And, India, simply, could not disassociate herself from these feelings.

But, for India, it was a nerve-racking decision On one hand was the immense popularity of the game, on the other the political principle

Also to be taken stock of were factors like the World Cup hockey, trade with the African nations and oil at a cheap price Which to safeguard, which to sacrifice? The perfect outcome would be to wriggle out unscathed in all respects But that meant a pause, a deep introspection, a bit of foreplay before the final chapter uncoiled itself

IT all began, quite patently, with the Guyana incident involving Robin Jackman, who had played in the Currie Cup competition in South Africa for several seasons And indeed, to his misfortune, has a South African wife It was inevitable, despite the International Cricket Conference's best efforts to thwart it, that this episode would have a repercussion on the future of world cricket

But let us examine what exactly took place in Guyana? The second Test of the West Indies-England series was scheduled in this territory, but a radio presenter in Kingston, Jamaica, just a few days before this match, pointed out the Surrey pace bowler's past involvement with South Africa, and it had virtually the effect of dynamite

The Guyanese Government—a repressive regime, but solid in its support for anti-apartheid moves—immediately served a deportation order on Jackman And the general demand in the Caribbean amounted to the exclusion of this player from the England side This was unacceptable to both the English Test and County Cricket Board as well as to the Cricket Council, which governs the game all over the British Isles

So, the England team under Ian Botham moved to Barbados, where the next Test was supposed to be played The weeklong negotiations ultimately resulted in the abandonment of the Georgetown Test, but the remainder of the tour, with Jackman still a member of the touring party, continued

It was not as disastrous as once apprehended, but it left a bitter taste in the mouth for lovers of the game What had been at dispute was the contents of the 1977 Gleneagles Agreement—a charter signed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government which, regrettably, did not express in letter what, at least, the non-white nations meant in spirit. It spoke of discouraging links with apartheid South Africa. But to what extent was not emphasized in clear enough terms. Nor were any 'sanctions' for those failing to meet the expectations of the accord The document did allude to 'nationals'—presumably meaning individuals—but the terminology was left extremely woolly and ambiguous, and interpretable in different ways. In fact, once the Afro-Asian countries realised this, they began drawing the severest possible inference, while the 'white' lobby, not co-incidentally, persisted with their softer conclusions.



Robin Jackman The trouble started with him

Anyhow, at the ICC meeting last July, the Test-playing nations resolved—and the Indian Cricket Board were bound to this motion—that no interference should take place in another country's team selection. About the same time, the TCCB issued a veiled warning to all County cricketers, which included Test players as well as prospects, that any trip to South Africa with a team of 'international standard' could jeopardise their Test future This was, obviously, in response to attempts that were being made, and in fact, are still being made by private sponsors in South Africa not without the tutelage of the SACU to lure 'big' names to a series of unofficial Tests with the South African side. But the interesting aspect was that the term 'would' was intentionally avoided as its usage was likely to be construed as a direct threat, giving rise to possible law suits on grounds of restricting trade practices. In England, first-class cricketers make their living from the game, and it is well nigh impossible under prevalent British law to disbar them from going to South Africa Britain maintain full diplomatic relations with Pretoria, South Africa are one of Britain's biggest trading partners, and there are a few visa curtailments on British citizens, when it comes to visiting that country. And in a situation where most County players are jobless over the winter, and the South Africans provide such good money for coaching and participation in the Currie Cup, how can the TCCB prevent their cricketers from going to South Africa? Moreover, there is the example of the ICC and the TCCB losing the case to Kerry Packer and his rebels in the High Court here, which, financially alone, accumulated to an expenditure of a quarter of a million pounds—absolutely worthless, as legal luminaries insisted

Of course, it may be suggested that Britain should not retain any contact with South Africa whatsoever, and perhaps, their demeanour in this respect falls short of United Nations recommendations But that's a much larger issue, and not really within the domain of a sports paper What's perhaps, more relevant is an account of events over the past two months, that threw up the last crisis.

Sigh of relief

SHESHRAO WANKHEDE, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India looked relieved. He had every reason to be. Barely 16 hours back the Indian Government had cleared the tour of the English cricket team which commences in the second week of November. Thus ended the 14-day drama which threatened the tour because the English team included two players, Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook, who in recent times, have played in South Africa in their individual capacity.

How did the deadlock end? How did the events unfold themselves? On October 29, the Board had warned the English players that any future sporting links with South Africa in international and representative matches would jeopardise their chances of selection for England.

Meanwhile, in Bombay, on the same day, the working committee of the Board met and decided that a clear-cut decision on the future of the tour must be obtained from the Government as there was just a week left before the commencement of the tour. With time running out, the committee decided to send Wankhede and Board secretary, Kanmadikar to Delhi to expedite the matter with the Indian Government.

Recent events did not hold out much hope for them. Their previous visit, a week before, to the capital had been frustrating and had given Wankhede little comfort. Remarked a source close to Wankhede: "I have never seen him so pessimistic."

Among the other things they carried with them were the necessary papers for sending one third of the total tour guarantee money of £ 2,44,000 in foreign exchange to the TCCB. The English authorities had been pressing the Board to remit this advance to them as per agreement. The same terms apply when India visits England. Wankhede and Kanmadikar also carried their passport because in the event of the tour being called off they would have to go to London to sort out a few points with the men at Lord's. Obviously, they had gone to Delhi, prepared for the worst.

The scene now shifted to Delhi. In the recent past the Prime Minister was not in the country. Her visits to Australia and Cancun meant that her final approval was delayed. The Indian Government reviewed the latest situation, including the United Nations black list of 128 sportsmen and the Gleneagles Agreement among Commonwealth countries calling for a boycott of those countries who have participated in South Africa

Wankhede and Kanmadikar arrived in Delhi on the morning of October 30. The bespectacled Wankhede's previous political affiliations helped him to arrange immediate meetings with the relevant authorities. He had been a Minister and also the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. The hetic day-long activity came to an end with the Political Affairs Committee giving the green signal A triumphant Wankhede called a Press conference in Delhi to communicate the happenings. After that he left for Bombay.

The TCCB had in the past been calling up twice every day, rang up again that night at 12.30 when the TCCB President George Mann and Secretary Donald Carr thanked Wankhede for their effort. Wankhede on his part appreciated the co-operation from his English counterparts. And the cricket lovers heaved a welcome sigh of relief.

HARESH MUNWANI



Willis He will have to utilise his experience to cause trouble for the Indian batsmen

Trouble has been brewing since the third week of August Indeed, it was shortly afterwards that the *Daily Mail* mentioned possible Indian Government objection to players with past South African links. The touring party had not been picked at that stage, and in a way, the story published, embellished as it was by quotes from unnamed Indian Government officials both in Delhi and London, appeared to make sure that no ban on any of the players was in the offing It is undeniable that Indian diplomats in the British capital have been quite convinced about such a ban for quite some time, and had been touching on the subject rather frequently in private conversation But there was never any official statement on the matter, and in any case, it was mostly personal views that had been uttered

But once the *Daily Mail* posed the provocation, an official reaction was obtained from Delhi, outlining the point that the question of banning or not banning anyone could only arise after the team had been selected, and that the British paper was 'jumping the gun' But more pertinently, it denied the English cricket authorities a clarification they possibly desired prior to picking their side

However, they must have breathed a sigh of relief when, soon after the announcement of the squad, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman in Delhi extended the assurance that anyone who was a British passport holder was welcome to enter India Geoffrey Boycott had not been objected to by any of the Caribbean Governments when he was there earlier in the year, but happened to be in the black-list subsequently prepared by the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), as was Geoffrey Cook, an uncapped player, who had captained the Eastern province in the Currie Cup last winter Indeed, around the time the *Daily Mail* piece made its appearance, it was indicated by Sam Ramsamy, chairman of SANROC that Boycott would be deleted from the black list if he gave an undertaking that he would not play in apartheid South Africa in future This guarantee had been offered by Paul Parker of Sussex, who played the final Test against the Australians this summer, resulting in a prompt removal of his name But all the Yorkshireman said was that he'll be guided by the TCCB in the matter

But with the end of September drawing near, as also the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in Melbourne, the doubts began to resurface, with a clear signal from Delhi that the matter of Boycott and Cook was being reconsidered Two factors, apparently had influenced this shift in attitude One was pressure from the African nations, principally Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania and the other was the strong feelings of Indian Members of the Parliament, in both sides of the House Neither could be ignored, and it also became evident to Mrs Indira Gandhi and her delegation in Australia that the Afro-Asian bloc was in no mood for a compromise As it is, India's has been a strident view on antiapartheid. Added to that has always been the sentiment of Mahatma Gandhi's struggle with the racists in South Africa For India, a standard bearer of the third world, to show any leniency in this campaign at such a crucial juncture would, naturally, have damaging consequences in terms of prestige and economics India could never adhere to a weak policy on the issue And thus, the decision to ban Boycott and Cook

Gower in America

DAVID GOWER goes West and almost gets away from it all

COME the end of the season, it is happily the fashion nowadays to spend a couple of weeks winding down overseas in warmer climes under the pretext of playing a nominal number of games of cricket. Add to that the name of a suitable beneficiary and as many supporters as possible and in no time you will be flying west.

Previously we had been to Barbados and Antigua for Vanburn Holder and Barry Dudleston respectively but this year we decided to go a little further and under the banner California Goes Cricket we landed in Los Angeles all supposedly for Norman Gifford's benefit but as usual as much for our own pleasure and the opportunity to explore new territory, new restaurants and the odd new brew.

Actually there were a few odd brews such as Michelob, Coors and Schlitz to add to the already familiar Heineken and Budweiser. Duncan Fearnley provided the bats (it's OK, I took my own GN100). Everton Travel organised the tour and World Airways kept us guessing all the way across the Atlantic.

Los Angeles doesn't quite have the cricketing history or tropical scenery of Barbados, which explains why so often members of our group had to explain our noble game to the ignorant natives of California. Yet those who did understand why we run straight and not out to first base are not short of enthusiasm. And they need it. The two Woodley Park cricket fields that all 16 local clubs have to share in LA are owned by the city, which is responsible for maintenance. Those responsible actually had the decency to cut the outfield *and* pick up the grass, apparently in our honour. The clubs themselves do their best to maintain the turf wickets. They have to leave a thick layer of spongy grass on the pitches, otherwise they have a nasty tendency to disintegrate fairly rapidly. Thus even the gentle medium pacer can extract enough life to awaken all but the most Schlitz sodden batsman.

A certain tone was set for the fortnight on the first morning with a welcome champagne brunch. Our host guaranteed us sun for the next 14 days, even though it took some time to break through the smog of the morning. Ted Hemsley stayed long enough to make sure that none of the champagne was wasted before following the rest of us to the poolside. Rumour had it that LA had not seen rain in September in 28 years. That must now be 29.

Our schedule included two matches against the Southern California Cricket Association, and the big day, a double wicket competition with male and female stars of Hollywood which it was hoped would lure the thousands to the Pasadena Rose Bowl and initiate them into our noble art thus, I suppose, encouraging them to throw away their baseball bats so that one day we can play England v USA in front of 100,000 in California perhaps finding a space in Disneyland!

The two 'proper' games were both suitably relaxed once we had established that none of the opposition bowlers was likely to rival Michael Holding in pace, even then, the splice and bat handle were used more than once in defence.

The opposition, comprising folk of English, South African (quiet), Asian, West Indian and even American descent would mainly be of good club standard, with one or two capable of playing county 2nd XI. Indeed one Neil Lashkari, spent some time with us at Leicester in 1980, having been discovered on a previous visit by Jack Birkenshaw.

For highlights, David 'Let it go, Reg' Steele featured on occasion, enquiring politely from gully 'Can I have that one?' for a skyer which would have won the first match but instead landed very adjacent to mid off. (Bad luck, Reg.) And then, during the second game, as the recipient of a singing telegram organised in celebration of his 40th birthday by thoughtful Jim Cumbes.

The most important cricket, if the least seriously played, came with the day at the Rose Bowl. Not even Ian Botham partnering the Incredible Hulk, nor Geoff Miller with Christopher Lee, could attract the hordes of spectators hoped for—and needed to fill the stadium, with its capacity of 102,000. There was a certain disappointment discernible among the directors of Everton Travel, whose baby this was.

However after a tentative start about 4 p.m. the competition started to warm up. Dressing-room facilities were spacious (American football teams number about 50 in all!) equipped with English beer on some sort of tap, and, in keeping with laid back California, a mixing of the sexes, though our female 'starletters' all came ready changed in their white knickerbockers and 'California Goes Cricket' shirts.

The sun dimmed the floodlights glared, the temperature dropped, and our girls sought refuge in the massive Press box, sited at the top of the 92 rows of seats more than 150 yards from the centre of the action, but also full of food and wine to refresh any ailing spectators.

Lou Ferrigno (the Incredible Hulk) borrowed Goochie's 'box' and autographed it before returning it, while the starlettes concentrated on preserving their fingernails if the ball approached—though mostly it disappeared many a mile over the short square boundaries, into the empty spaces on one side or in among the crowd on the other. Even the stars, experiencing cricket for the first time, managed the odd feat some blow, even allowing for very gentle bowling. My partner, Rick Anderson, caused one fielder to retire clutching his stomach. All this immortalised by the two film crews that also occupied the field often at very close quarters.

Eventually, Botham and the Hulk succumbed in the semi finals to Graham Gooch and Tristan Rogers, Australian born star and heart throb of *General Hospital*—and, judging by the screams, also responsible for the presence of half the paying crowd.

In the other semi-final Gower and Anderson just defeated Gifford and Patrick Wayne (son of John), despite no balls and some very sloggable full tosses apparently designedto help them into the final.

So at about 9.30 p.m. the first California Goes Cricket final came to an end, and my partner and I came second. For the stars their first taste of cricket seemed to enthral them. As we celebrated next evening over cocktails with the British Consul-General, they all seemed keen to repeat the operation if the chance arose.

For the rest of us, no-one came back from Disneyland disappointed. Weary, possibly, but not disappointed. Put it down in your book as a place not to be missed if given half a chance. Add the Grand Canyon. A half day there gave us only a superficial but rewarding glance. Los Angeles, in fact, has too many options either in the city or near at hand. Most of us managed the tour of Universal Studios. Vicki and I also took in a much more low-key but similarly fascinating tour of Warner Brothers. Jim Cumbes took the fairground faithful to Magic mountain, while Ian Botham joined the Dodgers baseball team for practice and slugged them further than Lillee and Alderman. Through it all, Duncan Fearnley, as team manager, found he could overcome anyone's lack fo humour with another beer.

COURTESY Wisden Cricket Monthly

Scrapbook

DAVID GOWER

At twenty-four David Ivon Gower has played more Tests than any Englishman his age, and is commonly regarded—when in full cry—as the most gifted England batsman of his generation But he's also been described as reckless, stupid and airy-fairy He was, in fact, dropped from the England side a year and a half ago, but has returned with a mature and more responsible approach He was again given a rest against the Aussies this summer, but his place in the squad for India was always assured Now he is one of the main pillars in the English batting

A "pukkah" chap, there are all sorts of Lords and Ladies in his background A *Sunday Times* probe into Burke's landed gentry and an aunt, exposed that David's most distinguished directline forebear was Admiral Sir Erasmus Gower, a former Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Newfoundland The family coat of arms, in fact, is a chevron between three wolves heads their motto, frangas non flectes, means "you can break us but not bend us"



Down the years the Gowers have disposed off a lot of amateur sweat David's grandfather Llewellyn Owen Gower, a judge in the Tanganyika territory, played cricket for the Sussex Club and Ground Eleven while on leave In the 1920's a great aunt, Phyllis Clarke, played hockey and lacrosse for England At the same time, Captain John Gower, an uncle, was a navy hurdles champion David's father Richard, a Cambridge hockey Blue, was a gifted and promising batsman "In that era there was no way he could make a living out of cricket," says David, "and besides, his family wouldn't have let him"

Gower was born in Tunbridge Wells, but that was while his parents were on leave, since his father had gone out to Tanganyika as Assistant District Commissioner Today's England star remembers little of his early days in East Africa, except the ships in Dar-es Salaam harbour and "hanging around stray huts, and drinking exceptionally sweet tea" with his friends, the servants' children But one day he picked up a cricket bat, left-handed, at the Gymkhana Club and was bowled at by his father and his mother, Sylvia, recalls "Even toddling along, he would middle a ball that was pitched up to him"

On Richard Gower's return to England in 1963, he became Registrar of Loughborough Colleges, and thus, the seeds of a future Leicestershire batsman were sown

Gower won a scholarship to the King's School, Canterbury, and had a session at the nets there with Colin Fairservice, the cricket master and former Kent and Middlesex player "My first thought was 'my God' this is the nearest thing I've seen to Frank Woolley," Fairservice remembers "It was the nonchalant ease and grace of his movements He didn't hit the ball, he stroked it—and with power, like Frank" But apart from the impression he made as a cricketer, he also collected three "A" levels, including a grade "A" in history His former housemaster, Chris Millar, says "I once asked a group of fifteen-year olds what they would be doing in ten years, and David said 'I'll be captain of England'"

That, however, has not come to pass But under the eyes of Maurice Hallam, Ray Illingworth and Jack Birkenshaw, he went from strength to strength at Leicestershire "What struck me from the start was his timing," reminisces Illingworth "In twenty-five years of first class



DAVID IVAN GOWER

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



cricket I'd only seen one man like him Colin Cowdrey With the half-hearted attempts at Oxford and London University behind him, Gower too, responded to the expectations He straightened out his technique against spin and was soon ready for the "big time"

In his maiden appearance in Tests in 1978, the first ball he received, from Liaquat Ali of Pakistan, he hooked for four It was a most emphatic entry into Test cricket He got 58 It was a blissful summer for the "golden boy", and he brightened it with a knock of 111 against New Zealand at The Oval, and when rewarded with the young England captaincy, cracked 108 against the same country He returned from Australia the following winter with the highest Test average of 42 runs per innings, and a few months later thrashed the Indian attack to the tune of 200 not out at Edgbaston But the slide began thereafter Chinks began to show in his foot work and defence And he struggled for runs right up to the first Test against the West Indies last year, which resulted in his omission from the side

Of course, there was never any doubt that Gower would be back sooner than later And indeed, regained his place in the Test team in the Centenary match And went on to demonstrate a new restraint in the West Indies

He came of age, in fact, at Sabina Park Playing the type of innings that would have been beyond him a year previously, he batted more than seven hours to save the match with an unbeaten 154, plainly the finest, most solid innings of his career "In my case concentration comes from confidence," says Gower, but at the same time agrees that such an inning was once outside his grasp

Pictures of leopards, wild cats and a jaguar adorn his house It matches well with his instincts, which are quite feline, whether in the covers or at the crease His 31 Tests have produced 2,042 runs at an average of 41 67, which is respectable, but more appreciable is his talent Gower taking strike is essential viewing Even 30 runs from his blade can be a delight

GRAHAM GOOCH

It was in 1974 that Graham Alan Gooch joined the Essex staff as an attacking batsman And so impressed were the selectors with his entry into the first-class scene that he was in the England team the same season for the Edgbaston Test against Australia But confronting the 21 year old were Lillee and Thomson, and he could not have fared worse against them He got nought in each innings, and didn't get a look in for another three years

Meanwhile one day cricket, monetarily and as well as in terms of prestige was growing in importance day by day And Keith Fletcher, Essex's captain, decided that Gooch's forcing style was often wasted lower down in the order He also felt, that in view of the 100 over first innings in championship games, the stockily built lad would



be much more valuable as an opener But Gooch's place as an England opener wasn't assured until after he was left out of the first Test in Australia in 1979-80

The man preferred to him, Derek Randall, had such a lean time in the job that Gooch was hurriedly recalled for the next Test in Melbourne, and scored 99 before he was run out Sometimes sporting a full beard, at other times a Mexican style zapata moustache and an overall appearance of a Samurai knight of old Japan He slowly worked his way to taking the strike in place of the ageing Boycott

However, when taking on the mighty West Indians at Lord's two summers ago, Gooch, after 33 Tests was still without a hundred in the highest level of the game But in that meeting at the "Mecca" the maiden century arrived in a glorious fashion The genial Englishman not only withstood the fearsome from the fearsome quartet (Roberts Holding, Garner and Croft), but massacred them in a manner that took the Windies by surprise He pummelled 123 in only 50 overs, an innings considered devastating until the following April in Sabina Park Indeed, it was one of a brace of hundreds in only four Tests in the Caribbean More important by this stage, the partnership with Boycott had been firmly cemented and, in fact was turning out to be one of the most durable in the world

But his aggressive approach evoked demands that he is the ideal person to fill England's problem number three position Reacting to this Boycott said This is nonsense He's been successful at number one and we've been successful both as individuals and collectively The fact that our style are dissimilar is important to the success of the partnership but that we're a problem to the bowler Don't love to be used there by anyone else

Yet the success of opening the West Indies [illegible] with a period of [illegible] months [illegible]



Leytonstone He faded away completely against Kim Hughes' team and had to be rested towards the end of the series Hours of intense concentration apparently, denuded him of his application, and he was found wanting against the moving ball His feet were not in proper position His body not quite behind the line and his head not over the ball Gooch is unconventional in his technique but at the same time he does embrace the fundamentals Not however during the recent series against the Australians

Gooch is a qualified tool maker and would not accept a professional cricketer's job with Essex until he had the solid assurance [illegible] Boycott's benefit has been [illegible]

[illegible] and played for East Ham, Germany and [illegible] My cousin [illegible] [illegible] Mr [illegible] Dad [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] West Indies [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]


Sportsworld
GRAHAM ALAN GOOCH



DULEEP TROPHY QUARTER-FINAL

Coin calls the tune

YOU cannot really make head or tail of Dame Luck's predilections and North Zone skipper Kapil Dev must have had reason to curse her when he called wrong to the spin of a two rupee coin and thus presented Vishwanath's South Zone the ticket to the semi-final of the Duleep Trophy tournament. The four-day quarter-final match between North and South Zone at the University Stadium, Trivandrum was decided even before the game started. But there is more to it than what was most saddening to the cricket world which the pre-match build-up had starved cricket for. Even on the dampened field it could be seen that this was possible only by the exception bat-

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



Kapil Dev—had reason to curse dame luck

stayed on to play what he could possibly consider his most memorable innings in this grade of domestic cricket

Patel's innings of 126 bore the stamp of authority and power. Initially defensive, Patel's innings was a grand mixture of controlled aggression. In Rao he found a fine partner (57 runs for the fifth wicket of which Rao contributed 32) and after the Hyderabad all-rounder left, Roger Binny and Syed Kirmani picked up the threads to lend fine middle order support to their Karnataka team-mate.

What a far cry it was from 4 for 9 to 222 for 8 when play was stopped half an hour before the scheduled close of the first day's play. If the South Zone players went for their dinners on a happy note that evening, it was because of Patel's brilliance. His century took 233 minutes, but that hardly robbed it of its lustre, considering the circumstances and the manner in which his colleague in the front went down. Patel fell early the next day after adding three more runs to his overnight 123. Incidentally these were the only runs added to the side's overnight total of 222 for 8. Madanlal finished with grand figures of 7 for 49.

A first innings score of 225 all out could hardly be described as respectable, but what a hash of it the North Zone batsmen made even while attempting the first task of gaining a first innings lead. Only opening batsman Surinder Khanna displayed keen intent on setting up the base for North Zone's first innings lead chase with some robust batting. But this initial phase flattered only to deceive. At 32 Khanna's partner Chauhan holed out to Rao off Binny after labouring for 77 minutes for his 11 runs. Mohinder Amarnath, without much apparent provocation, fell to Rao, trapped plumb before the wicket. Two balls later Rao got one to reat up on Kirti Azad whose only reply was a hasty jab which resulted in Venkat at backward short leg, accepting a lollipop of a catch.

Surinder Khanna, the only North Zone batsman who showed resolution and courage, ran into a debatable verdict. In the 37 runs opening partnership that he shared with his senior colleague Chetan Chauhan, Khanna contributed 4. He was distinctly unlucky to see the umpire's right index finger reach for the sky following Yadav's appeal for a catch at leg slip off Binny. There were many people around who believed that the ball came off his right pad.

Apart from Khanna, the only North Zone batsman to come up with an innings of some substance was Yashpal Sharma. But just when we were looking forward to a dour innings from him, the State Bank batsman played an ambitious shot which mattered neither the state of the wicket nor the circumstances his team was in then. Sharma attempted to cut a lethal off break from Venkat Raghavan, but ended up by having the mortification of seeing the ball trickle off his bat and spreadeagle his stumps. North Zone were 5 for 74 thereabouts.

The elegant Ashok Malhotra was joined at the other end by his skipper Kapil Dev and the two settled down to some sensible batting. Though the duo were held on a tight leash, they played within themselves and were unseparated until rain prematurely stopped play for the second day. For South Zone off spinner Yadav had figures of 5 5 9 0, Venkat (1 for 25) bowled tight and leg spinner Narasimha Rao (2 for 41) was rather unusually consistent in line and length. Binny exploited the 'sticky' patch at the Church end, but Sunil Valson, the former North Zone and Delhi medium pacer failed to make use of the six overs he was given.

When rain halted play prematurely on the second day, North Zone were 118 for 5 and interest in the match was still high. But the weather went from bad to worse and not a ball could be bowled on the third and fourth days. Even on the first two days 210 minutes of play was lost—60 minutes on the first day and 150 on the second day. The ill fated match which had to be declared abandoned and the winner decided on the spin of a coin will be remembered for the masterly innings of 126 by Brijesh Patel, Madanlal's grand figures of 7 wickets for 49 runs and, of course, the rain gods who played such spoilsports.

A CORRESPONDENT,
Trivandrum



TCSA TOURNEY

Cricket carnival at Digwadih

THE recently-concluded Tata Collieries Sports Association Invitation Cricket Tournament at Digwadih in the coal-mining district of Dhanbad has once again proved the adage that cricket is a game of glorious uncertainty This year Samar Pal, an ardent cricket enthusiast of Calcutta, got together his own selected XI and upset the applecarts of more renowned teams

In the quarter-finals, Samar Pal's XI, comprising mainly of cricketers out of favour with the Bengal selectors, had the last laugh as it out-witted the CAB XI by a margin of 39 runs It was a prestige issue of sorts and the experienced cricketers sealed the fate of aspiring cricketers in no uncertain manner

In the semi-finals once again Samar Pal's XI proved their mettle by scraping past the Bihar Ranji Trophy squad by 3 runs in a very exciting encounter With two convincing victories under the belt Samar Pal's XI brushed aside the challenge of Calcutta-based M N Dastur & Company in the finals It was basically a tame affair After dismissing the opposition for a meagre 114 all out, they raced to a total of 437 thereby claiming the three day final on first innings lead despite Dasturco's late rally of 265 for 6 with Kisan Pamani contributing a flawless 103

In their half of the draw Dasturco registered a magnificent two-wicket victory over the reigning champions, the State Bank of India, Calcutta circle An exciting semi-final it was SBI notched up 257 runs in 5 overs less than the allotted 90 overs Gopal Bose with clever variation of flight returned an impressive analysis of 4 for 66 Next day SBI fought back gallantly through the lion-hearted Subrata Porel (2 for 70) and the nagging accuracy of Sumit Shome (2 for 58) to restrict Dasturco to 205 for 8 wickets with rugger international Nandy Chandarvaskar hitting a lusty 67 But thereon Raja Venkat (82) combining composure with judicious strokeplay weathered the storm in company with the cool adventurism of Ashok Chowdhury (20) The pair stayed together till the last nail was driven in the SBI coffin

Dasturco's quarter final opposition was Ranchi-based Mecon The engineering consultancy firms' fixture was the only mis-match of the tournament as the former ran away easy winner by 165 runs For the record Raja Venkat scored an elegant century and the ex-Rajasthan middle order batsman Anjan Roy gave glimpses of his past form by caressing his way to a relaxed 81 Sanjay Rajan claimed 4 wickets for 108 runs Mecon could manage only 248 against the guile of Gopal Bose (4 for 58). Ex-Bihar Ranji cricketer Neel Kamal providing some resistance with a neat 76

This year's tournament will surely go down as Farasatullah's hour of glory The left handed all-rounder batted magnificently to score two consecutive centuries First against CAB XI in the quarter-finals and then again against B S Rao's XI Farasatullah has proved to be a veritable thorn to the B S Rao's XI team Last year also he played a confident knock of 160 odd in a vain effort to save the match against B S Rao's XI This year he went one step ahead Other than hitting two centuries he also helped himself to five wickets against either side. The cool, composed left-arm orthodox spinner followed the cardinal virtues of length and line In tandem with off-spinner Buddhadeb Mitter, who has neither lost his ability nor his positive approach, Farasatullah formed the most dreaded spinning combination of the tournament Even in the final they ran through Dasturco's innings capturing three wickets each

Another cricketer who did no harm to his reputation was Prabal Ghosh Known for his consistent batting record, Prabal helped Samar Pal's XI through scores of 64, 16 and 206 in the three matches The reliable opening partnerships of Prabal Ghosh and Farasatullah contributed greatly to their team's victory in the championship

Another batsman who caught the eye was Raja Venkat One year in the Leagues in England has definitely given him a sense of maturity Raja batted freely mixing caution and aggression in right proportions The fact that he did not let early chances affect his batting spoke volumes of his temperament His teachnique was sound and if he can keep up the good work, one should hear a lot about him in the near future.

Of the current Bengal Ranji Trophy cricketers none really impressed although young Amit Chakravarty showed a marvellous inclination to try his best whether batting or fielding Among the Bihar cricketers Hari Giri wani batted splendidly to score 130 in the only innings he had

Among the quick bowlers Subrata Porel (SBI) and Randhir Singh (B S Rao's XI) bowled their hearts out as they always do Subrata Porel was definitely unlucky as no less than four simple catches were floored off his bowling Randhir Singh bowled with untiring zest but could not reproduce the movement he is capable of Of the others Satindra Nandy (Samar Pal's XI) bowled with imagination Intelligently blending away swingers with in-cutters he claimed four wickets in the finals However, he would do well to rectify his habit of running onto the wicket Nandy is an ex-Railway Ranji Trophy cricketer and one of the few Calcutta pace bowlers with a clean arm-action

Now that brings us to a very important aspect of the tournament, that of umpiring The standard of umpiring was consistently high throughout. Messrs Lalit Ghosh, Samir Sengupta, Rathin Mitra, Salil Das and Mihir Bose did a very capable job But unfortunately they too seem to be following their elders in East Zone cricket of pursuing a no-confrontation policy.

These gentlemen who did duty at Digwadih are all men of learning and integrity Yet unfortunately rather than opening a new dimension to umpiring in East Zone, they too fell under the spell of their elder colleagues, who have all along never bothered to distinguish between fair and unfair delivery Some horrible actions were witnessed at Digwadih and it did no credit either to the tournament or to the umpires concerned

The enterprising sports officer of TISCO, Robin Mukherjee—the ex Bengal, Railway and Bihar opening batsman—has been organising coaching camps and tournaments at various levels in the district. Of course, this TCSA invitation tournament does more than mere promotion of the game in the region It is a sort of cricket carnival where teams from eastern India meet just prior to the actual season

A modification in the bye-laws of the tournament would be most welcome So far except for the three-day final, other matches are of two day duration with either side getting a maximum strike of 90 overs And only one new ball is permitted I feel a second new ball after 65 overs would make the encounters still more interesting

For me the main achievement of the tournament was the emergence of Kishore Chakravarty as a top class spin bowler Left-arm orthodox Kishore is a product of the soil Born and brought up in the neighbourhood he learnt his art on the Digwadih wicket This year representing the Tata Collieries Manager, B.S Rao's XI, he scalped four good wickets Even last year playing for the District XI, he had four victims from the star studded SBI line-up

Another fantastic achievement of the tournament was the comaraderie of the teams participating After Samar Pal's XI took the main prizes, Prabal Ghosh (highest scorer), Satindra Nandy (highest wicket-taker), Sambaran Banerjee (best fielder) and Farasatullah (Man of the tournament), the manager of Pal's XI Rani Ganguly in a magnanimous gesture presented a cash award to Raja Venkat of Dasturco Such an outstanding gesture can have only one winner—the TCSA Invitation Tournament

RAJU MUKHERJEE, Digwadih

DCM TOURNEY

Tame affair

A CORRESPONDENT reports from Delhi

THIS year's DCM Cup tournament will not be remembered for the quality of the football seen though two foreign teams participated both reaching the final. The quality of major Indian soccer tournaments rises or falls according to the level of performance of the major clubs from Calcutta. The withdrawal of Mohammedan Sporting on the grounds that most of its players were preoccupied with national commitments knocked quite a bit of glamour out of the tournament. In Delhi especially in the crowded and walled areas the club has a rabidly loyal army of supporters who believe that any tournament which does not feature the Sporting is not worth watching. If the withdrawal of the Mohammedans was not bad enough East Bengal's debacle was a calamity. Much depended on them. But their poor showing affected the quality of the remaining teams.

However the DCM tournament appears to be building up a new clientele. According to G P. Sinha its secretary: "More people than ever before watched the tournament in spite of the fact that Mohammedan Sporting were absent and other teams also were affected because their players were called to the national coaching camps." This is a good sign for it means that there are people who are willing to pay to see the less glamorous teams from other parts of the country.

Myongji brooked no resistance in the final. In winning 3-1 they made the Australians look quite ordinary. It is no tribute to Indian football teams that Tricolore were allowed to go thus far in the tournament. The Koreans' victory was, in truth far more authentic than their victory margin indicates.

Teams from Korea are no strangers to Delhi crowds. But judging from the display of this young Myongji side in the final it becomes evident that that country has progressed much in the tactical play. The way the linkmen Choi Houng Lee and Su Kil Kim engineered the attacks and the manner in which wingbacks Hak Bun Kim and Ui Suk Ko moved up and down was a delight to watch- a lesson to our teams. Such was the mobility of the team and so intelligent were their shifting of positions that the tough, never say die Australians found themselves outnumbered.

Had there been a man of the match award it would undoubtedly have been won by Houng Lee, who scored two goals with stunning shots indicating his power and skill. The first, in the 16th minute was a rising 30 yarder and the second, in the 67th minute, was a swift drive made after slipping through a gap which only a player like Houng Lee could have found. Both times the Australian defenders stood in amazement.

One has a strong suspicion that they stood there in admiration of the Korean player's shots rather than in any regret at their own deficiency. Even opponents can't help applauding good football. But on the field of play such feelings cannot be made public till the contest is over. Then the Australians were very generous in their applause of the Koreans -a gesture which went down well with the crowd.

Those present in the jampacked Ambedkar Stadium on the cloudy afternoon of the final will also remember the occasion for the pleasantries before the kick off. All 14 Australian players had lined up with a football in each man's hands, the ball having been only a few hours before the final. Suddenly, when it was time for the match to start, they kicked them to all parts of the stadium so there were at least 14 lucky men who went home with a gift. But all the goodwill the Australians earned before the start was of little help when the teams came to grip. The university footballers from Korea, including two internationals, were simply too fast, too skilful and too determined to win. But then this is not the first time that a Korean team is taking home the handsome DCM Trophy.

But to return to East Bengal, the newly formed Punjab State Electricity Board could not have cared less for all the dissensions in the East Bengal team when they clashed in group B of the quarter-final league, where the Calcutta club were directly seeded. With only one point from two matches, PSEB were determined to win what honour they could. To reach the last eight stage of a major tournament in their very first year was already a creditable achievement. In meeting East Bengal, for whom it was their very first match after two postponements, they played like men with everything to gain and nothing to lose.



South Korea [illegible] ex it Yim [illegible] the scoring goal

Strife-torn East Bengal, on the other hand, took the field with only ten men, with Amalraj joining after eight minutes. Then Ghoshal was replaced by Jamshid For all their troubles and travails, they managed to take the lead in the 22nd minute, with Amalraj finding the net with a low shot into a corner But soon PSEB surged into the game Darshan Goga slipped through a gap between Saha and Mathews to send the ball home Then Darshan sent Sharanjit through for a powerful shot

A winning start might have enabled East Bengal to get over their troubles But worst was to follow They degenerated further in the subsequent games and collapsed to 0-2 and 0 5 defeats against Punjab Police and East Fremantle Tricolore, Western Australia The Australians could not believe they were playing against one of the premier clubs of India "They were very ordinary" said Martin Treasure, the star Australian striker, about East Bengal Treasure (32) played for Australia in the 1973 World Cup qualifying rounds

Treasure was one of the star performers of the Tricolore (pronounced treecolorav), a team founded in 1952 by the Italian community of Fremantle



ASHOK VAIDE

Malatlai captain Ranjit Thapa flanked by three JCT defenders during the quarter final match at the Ambedkar Stadium



Martin Treasure, the Australian striker, is tackled during the semi-final match against JCT Mills

and since then became seven times league champions of Western Australia The blond haired Treasure, with the looks of a Borg and the temperament of a McEnroe, marred his visit by earning two yellow cards, which forced him to sit out in the replayed semi-final against JCT Mills, Phagwara But, in spite of his absence, the Australians overpowered the fighters from Phagwara 2-0 after drawing the first match 1 1

If Treasure thought that East Bengal were "ordinary", he was not aware that the same was what most students of the game thought about the Australians also Tricolore, so named because of the red, white and green colours of the club, made up with toughness, strength and speed what they lacked in skill However, they were full value for their victory over the Phagwara millmen, for whom veteran Inder Singh played only one half of the first semi final JCT Mills did have their chances, but their finishing left much to be desired In the defence, they must have missed Gurcharan Parmar, who was away on national duty Also, goalkeeper Ravi Kumar, formerly of Leaders did not exactly inspire confidence

Coming to think of it, JCT Mills were rather lucky to have made it to the quarter final league stage In the pre-quarter-final, they beat Kidderpore 5 3 via the tie breaker.

In earlier rounds, Kidderpore had beaten Madras XI 3 1, Chakraborty catching the eye with a hat-trick They also eliminated Moghals, Delhi 2 1, Chakraborty again getting a goal In addition to Chakraborty's hat trick, there were two more in the knock out rounds - one by Satish Kumar of Haryana Police in their 7 1 win over Ayodhyanagar Club Allahabad, and

Scapegoats?

DCM 1981 witnessed the most disastrous and pusillanimous performance ever given by the glamorous East Bengal in the capital They suffered three consecutive defeats, in their quarter-final league encounters (unprecedented for East Bengal in Delhi) and conceded 9 goals scoring just once However, even such a deplorable performance was overshadowed by the controversial suspension of the Iranians, Majid Baskar and Jamshid Nasirri (the spearheads of the team for the last two seasons) and their compatriot Mahmood Khabazi

Prior to their second quarter-final league encounter against Punjab Police (which East Bengal lost 0-2), the club's officials issued a Press handout in which allegations of intimidation, indiscipline and non-cooperation were made against the Iranians The handout was issued in the name of Sudhir Majumdar, the team manager in Delhi It was alleged that the Iranians were blackmailing the club, by demanding certificates to be issued by the club's general secretary mentioning thereon that they did not receive any money from the club Again Majid was accused of using abusive language against the club and its office bearers in front of a large gathering at the porch of the Centre Point Hotel (the New Delhi based residence of East Bengal) The club notice also stated that Majid left the hotel in a huff, threatening not to return, but returned surreptitiously at midnight When such a statement on behalf of the club was made public at Delhi, speculation was rife amongst the supporters, well wishers and football followers whether this dispute was a continuation of the Santo Mitra episode (during the Calcutta League) or another instance of internal schism amongst the committee members, with the Iranians being used as scapegoats

Talking to *Sportsworld* at their snug and posh hotel room in Delhi, the Iranians categorically stated, that internal rift amongst the officials of the club, with one group trying to oust the other, was the cause of their suspension and that the charges were an exaggerated facade Clarifying their version of the allegations and the situation, the Iranians, with Khabazi as their spokesman (plus occasional prompt tings by a disturbed Majid and a bearded and piqued Jamshid) mentioned, "Months before, when all the players got a notice from the Income tax department, we sought the assistance of the club's football secretary The club officials then said, 'It is our headache' and we will open a new file for you and settle everything On returning to Aligarh, we were told by the Dean of the University that the Income tax authorities were still on our trail, as the club had not done anything so far This upset us and so we wrote to the general secretary at Calcutta, seeking immediate assistance In his reply he stated that the income-tax clearance certificate would be issued in due course, as it took time to be prepared Consequently, when two East Bengal officials came to Aligarh on October 20th, to take us for the DCM tournament, we requested for our certificates We were assured that the certificate would reach Delhi before the second match as a special emissary from East Bengal was coming out with them Thus when the emissary came from Calcutta, Majid, the only one of us three present then, asked for the certificate When he was denied it, he became upset and said, 'The club is cheating me', but never used abusive language To overcome his grief and disappointment, Majid went with his friends for dinner outside the hotel He returned well before mid night and never created a scene For us the certificates are of vital importance, as we were warned in Aligarh by the Income-tax department that our roll numbers for the forthcoming annual exams in November (postponed from April because of strike) would not be given, thus hindering our education Again, to drop Jamshid from the team was ridiculous because he and I both came back to Aligarh after the first match because of our supplementary tests and returned to the hotel on the day of the match at about 10 30 a m Neither of us then had any quarrel with the officials. Again we offered to continue to play to safeguard the interests of East Bengal, even if no certificate was issued in future We repeated this offer thrice before the all important match against Punjab Police, but to no avail, as some officials, for their own vested interests, are victimising us and East Bengal"

SPEAKING on behalf of the team manager, Sudhir Majumdar (who appeared tense and nervous), a top-level executive committee member of the club who preferred to remain anonymous (he was the special emissary from Calcutta) offered another version of this imbroglio Conversing on the lush green lawns of the Centre Point hotel, he maintained that the Iranians were demanding a receipt from the club officials, stating that they had not received any money from East Bengal This was impossible because the Iranians had earlier in the season signed vouchers, against which payments had been made He also categorically denied that the Iranians had earlier approached the club for assistance in income-tax exemption (though Majid and the others have written proof on this account in the form of correspondences with the club) All the East Bengal officials in Delhi felt that Majid in particular was being encouraged by the club assistant secretary who was not on good terms with the club secretary They felt that the Iranians were used to create a rift and the men behind the scene were the club's assistant secretary and the 'Mysterious Masood' (ex Mohammedan Sporting official) who was in Delhi during that period

As regards the omission of Jamshed, the club's spokesmen conceded that both he and Khabbazi had been given permission to go to Aligarh for supplementary exams, even in between matches However, both had been asked to return to the hotel on the morning of the match by 9 00 a m Latest, as the team for the day's match would be selected at 10 00 a m Before the first encounter against Punjab State Electricity Board (PSLB) Jamshed arrived at 1 00 p m, while the match was to commence at 1 15 p m when he was placed on the substitute bench Even though he had come late, Jamshed created a scene, demanding to be allowed to play immediately In the interest of the club, Pitti Ghoshal was withdrawn just as the team was settling down and Jamshed was included Before the next match against Punjab Police two days later, Jamshed was warned to be in the hotel by early morning or face the consequences Thus as he did not report till noon, he was omitted (Jamshed swears that he reached the hotel by 10 30 a m, and even sent word of his arrival, which was acknowledged by some officials and that the tale of late arrival is just a concoction to get him dropped)

Whatever the outcome of this infighting among the officials of East Bengal, the real sufferers were the DCM tournament authorities, who not only paid the club an extraordinary large amount of guarantee money, but also kept them in luxurious accommodation (each double bed room cost Rs 180) Many rooms were hired as East Bengal, in their wisdom, with a squad of 16 players sent 9 officials, who were later joined by special emissaries from Calcutta The most pathetic plight was of the soccer-starved spectators of Delhi, who had high hopes on mighty East Bengal, but these hopes were belied

A CORRESPONDENT
and NOVY KAPADIA

PSEB—the new force

THE DCM Cup tournament has served as a stepping stone to a fame to many a football team in the past. The Goans, after liberation from Portuguese rule, had got their first opportunity of playing big football when Salgaoncar Club were invited Playing for Khalsa Sporting, Jullundur, Jarnail Singh, one of country's all time greats, started rising to fame in the DCM arena

This year it was PSEB (Punjab State Electricity Board) After their DCM showing, there should be no dearth of invitations to them from different tournament organisers They reached the quarter final league stage where they were eliminated They ended third behind East Fremantle Tricolore, Australia, and Punjab Police Their best victory was over Railway F C Calcutta, whom they beat 3 1 in the replay after the first match had ended goalless True, the Calcutta team were let down by Surjit Singh, the former JCT Mills goalkeeper but it can't be denied that PSEB trailing by a goal at half time did well to seize their chances in the second half and that is what matters in the end

In a state where soccer promotion is negligible to the extent that critics sarcastically joke that Punjab's leading teams play their League in Kerala or some other place, footballers who can hold their own in the best company continue to be produced

Jarnail Singh, a director in the Punjab Sports Department, who was in Delhi to observe the performances of Punjab players in the DCM Cup had an explanation He did not want to talk about the promotion of the game but said, 'Now we have a scheme of scientific coaching of our young players You see football is the first love of boys in the Phagwara Mahilpur Hoshiarpur area, and there is no dearth of talent"

To prevent players from moving out of the State Jarnail Singh has made efforts to arrange for job opportunities in organisations like the PSEB 'We have been able to recruit players by offering them jobs in their own home State—jobs in the foreman's or upper division clerk's pay scales' The size of the pay packet is to the tune of about Rs 900 but Jarnail Singh would be happier if the footballers could get at least a four figure salary

The PSEB example may also be followed by other Punjab employers like the Public Undertaking of Markfed 'Our plans are to form teams at every district headquarters says Jarnail Singh He added There is already the Hoshiarpur District Police team More such teams will soon be organised

Young talent, as Jarnail Singh says, is already there, most of it in the university teams of Guru Nanak Dev and Punjab, both of which gave a good account of themselves in the recent All India Inter Zonal Inter University tournament at Kurukshetra The plan is to prevent them from migrating or stagnating because of a lack of opportunities to make a living and also playing in their own State

Jarnail is also quite aware of the shortcomings of the Punjab players, like their lack of style and sophistication "The chief drawback is the tendency to neglect the wingers which prevents Punjab teams from truly opening out" In other words, the flanks are places for the best players and not places for a team to banish or hide its weaker players "Through scientific instruction by coaches we are trying to rectify the deficiencies of our boys,' says Jarnail Singh

"The Punjab Sports Department already has an Under 19 tournament and we also plan to organise Sub junior tournaments which will enable us to spot talented boys when they are very young,' Jarnail explains "Wait and see Punjab will be offering Indian football many more good players" he added hopefully

A CORRESPONDENT



Mafatlal's right striker Iyel Hussain and a JCT defender fight for control of bal

another by veteran Magan Singh in Rajasthan Police's 9 0 victory over Indian National Delhi Later Haryana Police were eliminated in the pre quarter finals by Mafatlal S C Bombay 4 2 and Rajasthan Police lost to Hyderabad XI 2 3 in the second round

Hyderabad XI who created such a fine impression last year were suddenly deprived of the services of Christopher and Moosa both of whom were ordered to the training camp at Bombay But before bowing out 0 1 in the pre quarter finals this year they put up a good fight against powerful Punjab Police with Muzaffar and Khizar Ali making dangerous thrusts in the second half

Punjab Police who made it to the semi finals by taking second place behind the Australians in group B of the quarter final League put up a stern fight in the semi finals against Myongji the champion University team of South Korea But fighting qualities alone are not enough for a football team to succeed The younger and skilful footballers from Korea won the day with a 77th minute goal by Su Kil Kim a dynamic midfield player

Playing in group A of the quarter final league Myongji had beaten BSI 4 0 JCT Mills 2 1 and drew goalless with Mafatlal

ALL-INDIA OPEN ATHLETICS

Bad track, good performances

A CORRESPONDENT reports from Lucknow

FOR our athletes to expect first class facilities to compete in is like asking for the moon itself The track, the runways, the jumping pits and the throwing rings at the 20th All-India Open Athletic Meet at Lucknow (October 23 25) left them fretting and fuming But then, this is not a new experience for them A large part of the budgets and attention which should rightfully be bestowed on the athletes and their comforts, is actually spent on the hospitality for the officials and "window-dressing", so to speak That, again, is an old story However, judging by our standards, things at Lucknow were not as bad as they sometimes have been known to be

Things looked spick and span at the Provincial Armed Constabulary Stadium, which is expected in such spit and-polish establishments But once the surface was scratched, it was different With the first impact of the runners' spikes, the cinder broke loose The runways were worse The jumpers did not even have to actually run on them to discover the truth No wonder, a Sabir Ali muttered curses under his breath while trying to concentrate at the start of his jumps in the decathlon, and a Balasubramaniam "fouled" all his three attempts in the triple jump No wonder that Raghbir Singh Bal could not hurl the hammer as far as he is actually capable of doing

The hammer ring was a risky place for the throwers, the thin layer of dust that had settled on it had formed a fine crust because of the moisture The story was more or less the same in the discus ring As for the hammer itself, the only implement purchased locally was about four centimetres shorter than the regulation size The throwers found it out by the tough measurements they customarily carry out by putting the chain to their navel

However, for all the fault-finding it was subjected to, the PAC track discovered a new star—Premachandran of Kerala The bearded, 24-year-old crane operator from Cochin Port Trust, running the 400 metres for the very first time in his life, beat more established men in the business like Uday Prabhu of Heavy Engineering and policeman Pavittar Singh Not only he, but also Charanjit Singh of Chandigarh Premachandran clocked 47 6 and Charanjit 48 4 For the sparsely built (57½—56 kg) Premachandran, it was a glorious double The previous afternoon he had won the 200 metres in 21 4 seconds



Premchandran— star of the meet

Premachandran had done little sprinting at school He discovered his hidden promise and talent only last year "But this year coach Rajasekharan persuaded me to believe that I could do well in the 400," said Premachandran

Premachandran had greater glory to achieve on the third day when, in winning the 100 metres in 10 8 seconds, he completed a rare treble The last time such a feat was performed was remembered only by track and field students of an older generation For it was 21 years ago that the great Milkha Singh had brought it off at the New Delhi National Games a few months before the Rome Olympics

With the aim of bringing athletes to their "peak" at about this time of the year in view of the New Delhi Asian Games which will be held in November 1982, the entire Indian athletics calendar has been recast The problems this has given rise to have not surprised national coach Joginder Singh Saini The long season this year has taken its toll A few of our top-flight athletes, like Geeta Zutshi and A Rajan, have dropped out of the Open because of the strain of maintaining their "peak" over a long period Also preferring to miss the Open were Rita Sen of West Bengal and Shivnath Singh, though their names like those of Geeta Zutshi and Rajan were very much there in the list of competing athletes

One is particularly sorry for veteran Shivnath Singh, who was recovering from viral fever at Jamshedpur Reports had it that Shivnath had trained himself to a state where he would have been an automatic winner of the 10,000 metres gold medal Indeed he had already showed something of his form and determination by winning the National Cross Country Championship at Bhatinda in August The absence of these athletes was no doubt felt but they had reasons to offer

What caused anger and disappointment was the absence of the foreign teams which the Amateur Athletics Federation of India had publicised earlier this year would be taking part at Lucknow One learns that the foreign countries had not responded to the AAI letters at all If this was so, why did the AAI not take the public into confidence? Mr Sivia, the AAI Secretary, will have to do a lot of explaining in the days to come Already, uncomfortable questions were being asked at Lucknow

FOR men like Gopal Saini problems arising out of unhelpful tracks and long seasons are challenges to be met and conquered They are tough men of rare character Taping his feet with adhesive plaster to prevent blisters on the loose cinder, Saini steadily raced on to win the 5,000 metres in 14 minutes 9 7 seconds Anything over 14 minutes for this distance is slow by Saini's standards Questioned about it, Saini bitterly complained against the track conditions "How can you return a fast timing on this track which is not only loose but also hurts? Had this race been run on a better track, I am sure the timing would have been under 14 minutes"

The race was a very absorbing one in spite of the slow timing—by Saini's standards Edward Vincent, the slim runner from the Army, set a hot pace in the early stages and actually led over two thirds of the way, the lead being sometimes as much as 50 metres The fourth and sixth laps of 64 3



Satnam Singh– winner of the 1,500 metres

seconds and 64 8 seconds were Vincent's fastest But the soldier had burnt himself out, which he discovered when Saini, his young railways team mate and training-mate Raj Kumar always in his shadow, stepped up the pace Saini and Raj Kumar finished in that order, almost shoulder to shoulder, with Vincent following home about ten seconds later

Raj Kumar, who has still a few months to go before celebrating his 20th birthday, is one of the "finds" of seasons Raj Kumar, who burst into the limelight at the Inter Railway meet in New Delhi in early October by beating Asian silver medallist Sukhwant Singh is a 5,000 metres runner who has the potential of clocking 13 30 Those who know him thought he had held himself back at the finish out of respect for the senior Saini Praising his junior, Saini himself discounted such thoughts "He'll beat me the day he is stronger," he said "No question of 'bara' or 'chhota'—senior or junior," he said

Serviceman Sardool Singh won the 800 metres in 1 52 1 from Damodar Gowda (1 52 3) of P and T, who was a member of the Indian team to Moscow in August After Sriram Singh, India has not been able to find a man able to run the race in under 1 50 and that includes Rajan, whose form has been on the decline since he won the gold medal in the Tokyo Asian Meet last summer

With the conditions in the hammer ring being what they were, it was not surprising that Raghbir Singh Bal of the Police, our foremost man in the event, was about two metres below his known capabilities His best effort measured 62 12 metres Young Gurtej Singh, of Heavy Engineering, won the javelin with a throw of 68 04 metres But Gurtej, a discovery of last year's Open at Ajmer, should improve faster One had expected him to get into the 70 metres class by now

IF, in spite of the shortcomings of the track, P T Usha was able to better the meet record in the 200 metres on the opening day it was a feat worthy of high praise After several weeks of check ups and treatment at New Delhi's prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences following health problems which occurred after the last Inter State meet at Bangalore in February, Usha must have been looking forward to this Open meet just to prove herself all over again And so was her rival Sreekumari Amma, who had been forced out of the track by injuries Both came out with flying colours and, between them helped Kerala dominate the women's sprints The taller Usha re emphasised her superiority over Sreekumari by winning the 200 metres in 24 8 seconds - two-tenths of a second faster than the meet record of 25 00 seconds set by Marie Verghese of Karnataka in 1974. Usha who had equalled Marie Verghese's mark in the heats run less than 90 minutes earlier might well have improved her own National record of 24 6 had the track been more helpful Sreekumari won the silver medal in 25 2 seconds, and Vandana Rao of the Universities the bronze in 25 6

Girls like Usha and Sreekumari are already established names But Punjab's Mohinder Kaur, seeking to establish herself in the longer distances, did well by winning the 1,500 metres—the very first event down for decision on the warm October morning when Mr Kartik Oraon, Minister of State for Communications, flew over from New Delhi to declare the meet open So good was Mohinder for the rest of the field that she was left with the difficult task of competing against herself in the last lap and at the finish, was about 10 metres ahead of silver medallist Mary Thomas of the Railways, with Rachna Goyal of P and T third a few more metres behind Mohinder's timing of 4 38 1 was 2 6 seconds slower than Geeta Zutshi's meet record of 4 35 1 There is little doubt that Mohinder, a 20 year old girl from Hoshiarpur in Punjab is capable of

Shabir Ali at the start of his run up for the long jump



better timings Athletics, even for girls, has to have the support of jobs in offices And Mohinder, too, is in need of a job in a department like the Railways where Geeta Zutshi herself was first employed It is the atmosphere there that makes the difference.

Before the first day ended, the Railway foursome of Nalini Rajaratnam, Padmini Thomas, M D Valsamma and Hamida Banu took some glory from Kerala's girls by winning the 1,600 metres relay in 3 54 9, which beat the old meet record of 3 57 5 by Kerala in 1980

Ever since Mohinder Singh Gill disappeared from the scene, the triple jump had become sub-standard. But now, in Balasubramaniam, India has at least one man capable of clearing 16 metres—even nearing 17 metres However, his first three jumps were fouls and that put him out of the competition But the railwayman from Madras was more careful in the long jump which he won with a leap of 7.16 metres Perhaps, after his mishap in the triple jump he was overcautious. He is easily capable of jumping over 7 1/2 metres

Half-an hour after Premachandran won the 200 metres on the second day, Usha put the stamp of her old authority by winning the 100 metres in 12 seconds flat, thus equalling Anusuya Bai's meet record Usha had earlier won the 200 in 24 8 seconds to become full owner of the record in the event. In the shorter sprint also, Sreekumari Amma and Vandana Rao followed her home in that order

The pole vault is one of those events in which our progress has been painfully slow But suddenly, there was an improvement of 15 centimetres In a long contest which continued till it was quite dark, Sunder Singh Tanwar won the event by vaulting 4 40 metres Mohinder Singh of the Police also bettered the old record by clearing 4 35 metres, while Rajinder Kumar (Heavy Engineering), equalled his own old mark of 4 25 The breakthrough in the event was an occasion of some significance

IN Shiny Abraham, a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Kerala, the country might have discovered a Geeta Zutshi in the making Shiny won the 800 metres in 2 minutes 16 2 seconds, ahead of the older Mohinder Kaur (2 16 4) This is better than Geeta's timing at the age of 16 Shiny ended the meet with a silver medal in the 400 metres, in which she was beaten by Hamida Banu of the Railways. Hamida clocked 57 2 and Shiny 57 8

Early on the second day, Chand Ram reiterated his position as the country's number one walker The gold medallist of the Tokyo Asian track meet, won the 20 km walk in one four 35 minutes 55 8 seconds, with Jagraj Singh, another Army man, striding home in 1 38 32 2 The walk caused a lot of dissatisfaction in the end, as those who followed the first two complained that they had been made to walk an extra lap on the road circuit because of an error A human error, by the lap scorers. In fact, one walker, Ranjit Singh of the Universities, who came "third", according to his own reckoning, refused to continue after he had "finished". But then, only official counting matters

Of the five records set on the third day, only one went to a man—Gopal Saini The great steeplechaser, constantly challenged by policeman Pradeep Kumar, clocked eight minutes 40 00 seconds to win the event and beat his old meet record of 8 49.6 Pradeep, clocking 8:41.4, also considerably improved on that record Pradeep, who negotiated the water jumps more smoothly than Saini, may become a serious threat to Saini's pre-eminent position in the event.

A wiry, 15-year-old pigtailed Punjab girl is now the country's number one long-distance female runner Looking much younger than she actually is, Surjit Kaur set a new National record in the 3,000 metres when she won the event in 10 minutes 08.1 seconds, the old record being 10 19 5 in the name of Haryana's Jagwanti Ahlawat Following Surjit home was Mary Thomas, holder of the meet record at 10·19.7 With Mohinder Kaur having earlier won the 1,500 metres, Punjab could claim to be the number one State in the field of women's distance running.

M D Valsamma, of the Railways, who won the 400 metres hurdles in 61 8 seconds, Bakhtawar Khambatta, also of the Railways, who won the shot putt with a throw of 13 59 metres and the Usha-anchored Kerala team, which won the 400 metres relay in 48 4 seconds, accounted for the remaining women's records on the last day In fast-improving Vijayamala Datta, of Delhi University, Khambatta has a serious rival in the shot putt Datta was second with 12 90 metres

Kerala's rise in women's athletics was, in the end, emphasised when they were joint winners with the Railways with 56 points each Quite of a few of the Railway girls are products of Kerala

Services won the men's team championship, beating the Railways narrowly Services secured 60 points, while the Railwaymen had 56. Heavy Engineering Sports Board and Police followed with 35 and 27, respectively.

[illegible] of pole vaulters

[illegible] was once known for [illegible] who made their [illegible] in cities like Calcutta and [illegible] hope to lay out beautiful [illegible] in their native place. Bhiwani should now also be known as the country's nursery of pole vaulters.

Sunder Singh Tanwar (20), Rajinder Kumar (25), Phool Kumar (25) and Amarpal Singh (22) stood first, third, fourth and fifth respectively. The second man, Mohinder Singh, though not from the same school, also belongs to Haryana.

There is an old saying in the north to the effect that the man who teaches one the first letters of the alphabet is the real "guru". For Sunder, Rajinder, Phool and Amarpal, the real guru is a 60-year-old physical instructor at Vaish School, Barjit Singh, who is respectfully called 'Pt Sir' by India's pole vault champions.

Sunder Singh, the youngest and best, vaulted 4.40 metres. Rajinder equalled his old national record of 4.25, but failed at 4.35 m in the gathering gloom at Lucknow. Phool cleared 4.20 and Amarpal 4.10. These performances come nowhere near the standards of the Japanese and the Chinese, but considering the primitive conditions in which our pole vaulters have to compete in, these Vaish School lads have achieved a rare feat.

Back home at Vaish School, 'Pt Sir' has been teaching his pupils the rudiments of polev aulting in his own manner.

Once they caught the eye of talented spotters at the school games or other State or National junior competitions, these Vaish School boys passed on to the care of professional coaches. It has been like moving on for higher education after the teacher down the lane has taught you all he has to teach.

Sunder, Rajinder and Amarpal represent Heavy Engineering Sport Board, while Phool is in the Railways. They have been getting their instruction from coaches at the National Training Camps or others in their respective departments.

Seeing the number of pole vaulters he has produced for the nation, Sarjit Singh has sometimes been offered help in the shape of pole vault boxes like coach Gujarati of Heavy Engineering Sports Board.

"There are more boys who will soon be put on the national scene by 'Pt Sir', says Rajinder, Sita Ram, Rajinder's own brother, and Mahipal Singh." "So infectious is 'Pt Sir's' enthusiasm, that we boys would come to school even on Sundays to train," according to Rajinder But 'Pt Sir' is in the last years of his employment. His old pupils hope, Governor of Haryana himself will grant him an extension to enable him to produce pole vaulters for the nation.

A CORRESPONDENT

Sportspeople

A player of promise

OBVIOUSLY it is oversimplification to forecast a country's rise to dominance on the basis of an individual player's promising performances, but at last Australia perhaps has got the man who might bring the country's name back into glory in world tennis. *Pat Cash*, a confident 16 year-old right handed player from Melbourne, seems set to emerge as the most commanding figure in Australian tennis to challenge the American might which once robbed his country of the prestige she enjoyed for a long time in the world arena. There was Rosewall, there was Laver and, of course, Newcombe—but that era has ended and since then Australia has been struggling to retrieve its lost image, but with little success. The only player of some promise that Australia could produce in almost a decade is Peter McNamara, who is currently ranked among the world's top 20. But prospects still did not brighten enough to raise any great expectations.

But now comes Cash, who has already established himself as the top ranked player in the world and the No 2 junior, and thereby proved that he has the makings of a future world No 1.

In May this year, Cash achieved an upset victory over Australia's Davis Cup player and former Wimbledon quarter finalist Phil Dent in the Scotland Championships.

A few days later, Pat came close to another remarkable achievement—the Junior Wimbledon. He stormed in to the final but unfortunately, only to be denied the top honours by Matt Anger, who was two years his senior, in two tight sets.

At the Avenir Cup tournament in Milan Cash faced the best of Europe in the boys' singles event and triumphed. It was one of the most significant victory in his career thus far.

Cash won the Canadian 18 and-under singles against West Germany's Hans Schwaier, who, however, avenged this defeat later in the semi-finals of the United States event.

Back home Cash has now to try his luck at the fiercely competitive Australian circuit. But with his superb ground strokes and a compact serve-volley game he has little cause for worry, which on the contrary, he himself has been for other established names like Mark Edmondson, the former Australian Open champion, who declared Cash "That's one helava player" after winning the Brisbane Grand Prix by defeating him 6-4, 7-6.

But, the man who is now showing so much promise as a tennis player could have been an Australian Rules footballer (his father, Pat senior, was a leading Australian Rules player in the Fifties) had he not taken the momentous decision to opt for lawn tennis realising "I felt I had more potential to be a top tennis player than a footballer."



Pat Cash—bright future ahead

Encouraged by his recent success, Cash now aspires not only to the Junior Wimbledon title which eluded him this year but also to something even more valuable—the Wimbledon proper. "I'd like to make the main draw", Cash said confidently. "The junior event is only in the second week so I'd like first to get in among the big guns. But I know it's going to be mighty tough earning the points to get there."

Cash, who believes "School work and tennis never mixed" is now undergoing training at the Government-sponsored Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra under coach Ray Ruffels, the former tour professional.

Now, the question haunting every mind is will Australia be able to cash in on Cash.

End of an era

THE *Marquess of Exeter*, popularly known as Lord Burghley before he succeeded his father in 1956, died at the age of 76. An Olympic gold medal list, he was a record-breaking athlete for 10 years preceding the World War II.

The charming personality of this great sportsman made him the idol of the crowds. After he returned home winning the 400 metres hurdles in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam, he was given an exuberant welcome by his countrymen.

In his eventful career Lord Burghley won several Olympic medals and set many records which remained unbroken till 1945. He thrilled his countrymen with his brilliant performances at various tournaments. He created British records for 120 yards hurdles which lasted for nine years since 1927. In 1925, he set a British record for 220 yards hurdles, which remained unbroken for the next 25 years. Further, in 1928, he created a record for 400 metres hurdles which stood for 26 years from 1928. And in 1926, he again put up a record-creating performance for 440 yards hurdles. The record remained unbroken for the next 23 years.

In the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932, he also won the fourth position in the 400 metres hurdles.

At the age of 22, Lord Burghley had achieved an almost, rare feat: he beat the Trinity College clock, Cambridge, by running round the Great Court before it had finished striking 12. In 1936, he completed running about a quarter of a mile in less than 58 seconds and observed "Damn near killed myself."

Besides being a sportsman, Lord Burghley had also an intimate connection with politics. A Conservative MP for Peterborough for 12 years since 1931, he was equally popular in both the Houses of the Parliament.

Lord Burghley was educated at Eton and Le Rosey, Switzerland, and then at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was amusingly described as "the busiest young man in Parliament". He became, in 1933, the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the late Lord Hailsham during the World Economic Conference in London. He also became, during the War, Assistant Director of Tank Supply, Controller of Aircraft Repairs and Overseas Supplies and Minister of Aircraft Production. He was also Governor of Bermuda for a period of two years until 1945.

After his retirement from athletics he devoted himself to organising activities and achieved spectacular success as chairman of the Organising Committee of the first post-War Olympic Games in London in 1948. He became president of the Amateur Athletic Association and also that of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Since 1936 he was chairman for 30 years of the British Olympic Association, and thereafter president, until 1977.

In 1929, he married Lady Mary Theresa Montagu-Douglas-Scott, daughter of the seventh Duke of Buccleuch. By his first wife he had three daughters and a son who died in childhood.

His first marriage ended in divorce in 1946. Thereafter he married Mrs Diana Forbes, widow of Col David Forbes, by whom he had another daughter.

The saddest part of his life was that he became so crippled with arthritis in his later years that he had to undergo a series of hip operations.

Second World Invitational Women's Football Tournament

Indian women's football team meet cruel fate

WELL, what a disaster! Having barely managed to save their face by not coming last, sixteen crest fallen girls returned from Taiwan after the 2nd World Invitational Women's Football Tournament

Frankly speaking, things hadn't run too well for our girls, and quite naturally it wasn't with much confidence that they boarded the aircraft on October 7, 1981 After the two months' "intensive coaching" the women footballers– Kuntala Ghosh Dastidar, Rama Das, Sukla Nag, Minati Roy, Judy D'Silva, Sushma Das, Indrani Saha, Chaitali Chatterjee, Sukla Dutta, Shanti Mullick (Bengal), Yolanda D'Souza (Goa), Rajkumari Amusana, Romani, Chavi (Manipur), Rathna (Karnataka) and Lalitha (Kerala)— were finally on their way to Taipei

It was quite a grand affair Scores of girls from Germany, Finland, Haiti, U S A , France, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Holland and Taiwan practised, sized up one another and got ready for the day The tournament, played on a league basis in Taipei, Tai Chung and Kao Hsiung, started in full swing on the 12th There were four groups in all, two consisting of four countries each, and the other two comprising three due to the absence of Hongkong and Indonesia

It was a tough going for India right from the beginning as she was placed in group 'A' along with Germany, Finland and Haiti Germany was easily one of the best as was Finland, incidentally the joint winner with France in the previous tournament It was indeed a difficult proposition for the Indians Despite the presence of their star players they felt shaky, and an apprehensive captain Kuntala led the team in for their first match with Germany

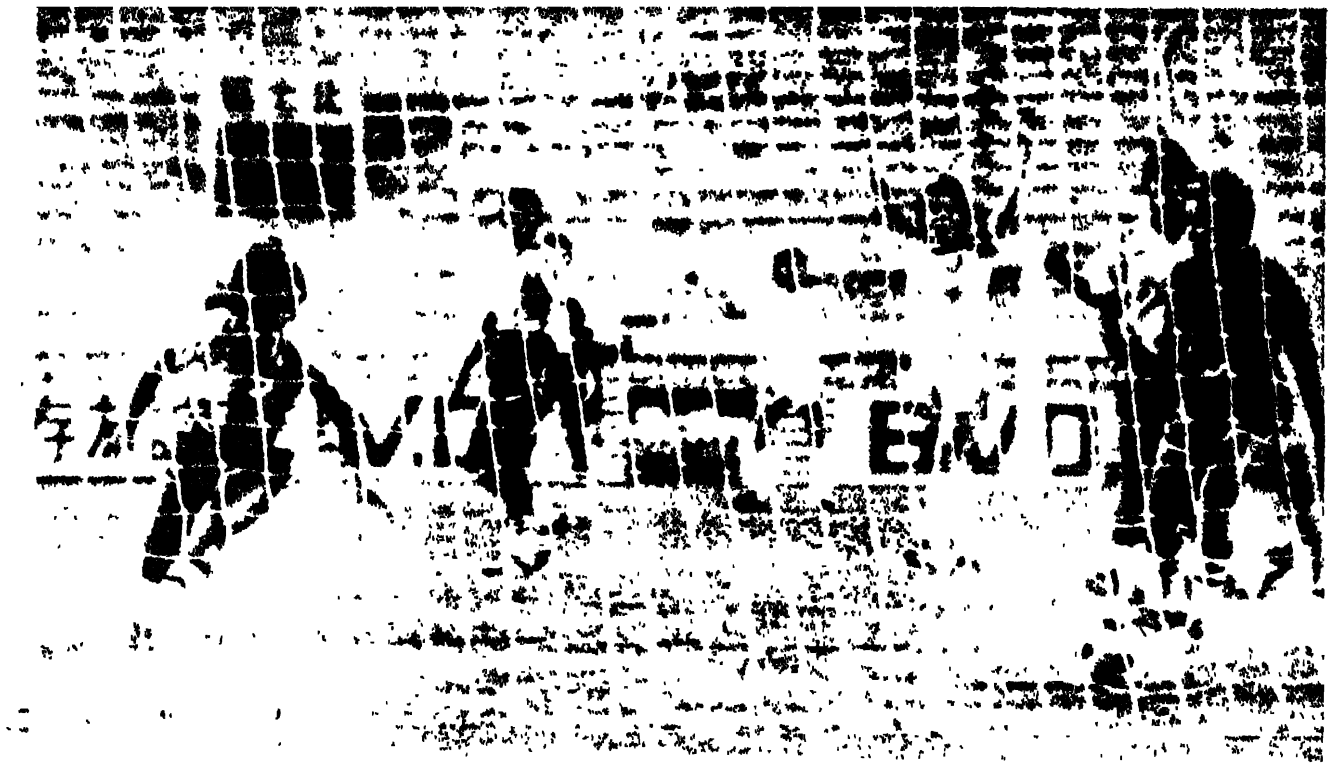
Surprisingly enough, India started off rather well as her first encounter with Germany ended in a goalless draw It was no mean achievement on the part of Indian footballers considering the calibre of the German girls The Indian girls played well and the goalkeeper Rama Das especially was superb Luck too favoured them and, on more than five occasions, the German players' shots harmlessly went over the bar

The girls, however, got no chance to relax and Finland soon trounced India 5-0 It was a thrashing defeat which they'll remember for a long long time Looking back, Kuntala wonders why some of the girls, who played "well" in the first match, were replaced in the second match "Was that the proper time for experimenting?" she questioned The very next match, in which Shukla Dutta sent the ball home twice, ended in a 2-2 draw but India's hope for securing a place among the first eight was frustrated The dejected girls then left for Taichung to play the remaining matches The tussle there was for a place in the upper rungs among the last six

The story in Taichung was no diffe-

A dramatic moment during the India-Finland match





The Finnish players exult after scoring during their match against India

rent and India continued its journey down the ladder Luck too forsook them as the team suffered from several injuries Judy and Amusana were seriously ill while Minati fought bravely in the middle even with a severe pain in her chest The result thus was not, in the least, unexpected The U S A beat India 6-0 One of the two teams from Taiwan, Liangyu struck the last blow and defeated India by two goals to nil India occupied the 12th position The 13th and the 14th (the last) positions were secured by Haiti and the Philippines respectively It was the 'super' German team who, as expected, won the trophy

It was indeed a dismal performance by the Indian girls In their previous encounters with England and Malaysia elsewhere the Indian girls had proved their worth Their performance in the Asian Women s Soccer too was commendable Then why this sudden downfall? What exactly was our problem? The ground? Well, though the ground in Taichung was, as the girls felt, "a little better than a paddy field", the football ground in Taipei was just perfect As the beaming Finnish coach confirmed, not a soul had set foot on it for three whole months before this tournament But neither the ground condition in Taichung nor the mishaps and illness was totally responsible for the debacle Problems lay elsewhere

Things hadn't run too well Girls, who had received a solid coaching before the Asians and thus played beautifully, did not get proper coaching before this tournament Whatever went by the name of coaching this time was more of a farce. Kuntala explained that right from the beginning she had felt that things weren't shaping as they should "In Taipei we found that we were just not functioning well, there was unity but hardly any understanding " Moreover, unfortunately, very few girls, save Rama Das, played their usual game, and for this lack-lustre performance they were more than easily outclassed by almost all the others They were just no match for the European girls who had improved tremendously and played magnificently

Indian and Finnish players fight for the ball



Arati Banerjee, Joint Secretary of the WFFI had accompanied the girls She felt that there were more than one reason for their miserable failure Our girls undoubtedly play well, they are also good footballers, but others, with probably the exception of the Philippines, outplayed us mainly due to speed and physique There is no hope for better prospects of our girls if things remain just as they are, she explained There is no doubt that what Mrs Banerjee said is absolutely true The average height of players of other teams was about 5 7", where as we can boast of just about two players--Judy and Yolanda—who are above the 5'3", the average height of the Indian girls is around 5'1" and there is little wonder that a Romani, Minati or Shanti trying to head, pass or shoot just got lost in the crowd That's exactly what happened", confirmed their captain and added, "On foreign soil we put up a very poor show and failed miserably, let's accept it without trying to blame others "

Our girls have accepted what has come their way with dignity, but this undoubtedly is a tournament they'd rather forget Probably never before have they been so badly beaten Much was expected of them and it was like being hit on the face with a wet mop. Disappointed and dejected, the sixteen girls will need a little time to absorb the shock, but once they do it, it goes without saying, they will surely put in all they can to prevent a repetition of such debacle in future

SUDESHNA BARUA

News round-up

Sports fever in Jamshedpur

JAMSHEDPUR With a cold nip in the wintry air, this picturesque steel city, currently bedecked with colours, under a costly beautification scheme, with the cloud-capped Dalma range forming the background, is all set once again to usher in another entertaining sports season, quite in keeping with its well-earned distinction as the "Sports Capital" of Bihar The season starts on November 20 with an all-India event—the All India Women's Inter-University Volleyball Championship—followed by the National Boxing Championship, commencing from December 15, 1981 Quite a few competitive cricket tournaments of all-India importance are also slated for the season that will continue up to February next year Some of the nationally reputed cricketers are likely to take part in some of them

As many as 23 North Zone universities of the country have so far intimated their intention to participate in the North Zone Women's Inter-University Volleyball Championship, to be held here, under the auspices of the Ranchi University, according to Geeta Sanyal, Principal of the Jamshedpur Women's College, and organising secretary of the tournament committee Those who are yet to send their entries are the universities in neighbouring West Bengal without whom, Mrs Sanyal felt, the contest was likely to be "insipid and lack lustre "

The JWC, which volunteered its services to the Ranchi University, will provide its well maintained campus for the accommodation of the partici pants during their 10-day stay for the championship The home university will be 'manned mostly by the JWC girls, who only recently won a five-team inter college volleyball tournament Dr A K Dhan, Vice-Chancellor of the Ranchi University, will inaugurate the Inter Varsity championship, Tata Russi Mody, Vice-Chairman of the distri..Steel, will preside over the prize

Mea bution ceremony

from alnwhile more than 150 boxers Nagaland the States, including Assam, sides the d, Manipur and Tripura, be-Steel Pla Services, Railways, and the their entants Sports Board, have sent long 28t ries to compete in the six-day-pionshi h National Boxing Cham-cember p, commencing here from De-

Anne. 15 next

A. K N ouncing this to *Sportsworld*, Mr Amat Aattoo, President of the Indian infor eur Boxing Federation (IABF), G T med that the stadium at the local no own Community Centre, which is wi w undergoing complete renovation, ll be the venue of this national event and accommodate about 10,000 spectators. Incidentally, Mr Mattoo mentioned that it was the fourth time that Bihar was chosen for staging this 'National', and Jamshedpur had the proud privilege of hosting it each time.

Most mentionable is the fact that Mr Buta Singh, Union Minister of State for Transport and Shipping, who is also the Chairman of the Special Organising Committee of the 1982 Asiad in New Delhi, will be here to watch the Nationals for his personal assessment of the performances of the Indian boxers, prior to the selection of the



A K Matto president, Indian Amateur Boxing Federation

Indian team for the Asian Games

Predictably, the enthusiasm among the local youths, who never looked upon boxing as an "ignoble art", is already running high Repeated public demand for a cover on the stadium is under consideration Though the cost of staging the 'Nationals', is quite high, Mr Mattoo is hopeful that the local industries with whom sports of any kind are a part of their welfare measures for their employees, will come forward with contributions to make the event a grand success The sprawling campus and the newly-built DBMS High School will be at the disposal of the Bihar Amateur Boxing Association, under whose auspices the 'Nationals' will be staged, for accommodating the boxers and the officials from different States

VIDYARTHY CHATTERJEE

Bleak future for women's soccer

BANGALORE: Girls, girls everywhere but no one to play This is the present condition of women's football in Karnataka The Karnataka Women's Football Association (KWFA) has about five teams on its rolls but actually there are hardly half a dozen girls who practise regularly

There has been a very poor response to the KWFA's call to youngsters to take to the game and develop it in the State. Though, normally, no coach or suitable equipment is available, Mr. Rachappa, secretary of the KWFA claims that there is no dearth of either coaches or equipment Only there is no girl to make use of the facilities available

Karnataka, however, has produced many internationals in the past six years Chitra Gangadharan, Uma Kittu, Gayathri Ponappa and H. Ratna are a few names that have made Karnataka proud Among these only Chitra and Ratna are active at present There are about 12/15 players who have represented the State consistently. With the help of these girls, somehow or other, Karnataka has managed to participate in many tournaments at the national level too

Since its formation in 1975, the association has hosted a couple of Test matches in Bangalore In 1976, Thailand was invited to play eight matches in India That was the first time a foreign women's team was invited to the country to play football Bangalore was also one of the venues, and six players from the State were in the Indian team Again, in 1979, the Tiverton football team from South England played nine matches of which one was played in Bangalore Later this year, the world champions France are scheduled to play eight matches in India

At the national level, Karnataka has managed to be amongst the first fours But now, paucity of players is posing a threat to the game itself Experienced players continue only till they get married It is learnt that half a dozen State players have given up playing after their marriage and that the association has been finding it difficult to fill this gap

Moreover, Rachappa alleges that the girls are not prepared to go out of station for tournaments either due to restrictions at home or due to studies In 1980, it so happened that 46 reported to a camp at Calicut prior to the third Asian Cup The camp had eight players from the State as probables The State association met all the expenses with the aid of the State Sports Council After the training was over and the camp concluded, it was learnt that some of the girls refused to go out of station for playing matches

Lack of proper planning seems to be another malady confronting the association The heavy schedules are usually slated from November to mid-March That being the examination season, it is inconvenient for the players who are still at schools and colleges One such instance was the Junior Nationals at Lucknow

There are only four or five clubs at the State level The schools and colleges are not really interested and prefer recognised games like basketball, hockey, cricket and athletics As they are busy promoting these games, there is "no allotment" for football. One State player complained that football was not lucrative enough. "If you are in hockey or athletics, you can get a job at least. Who cares for football,



Ordnance Hole-y Fore-s The proud winners of the Wills Favourite Foursome Championship From left to right Sanjeev Seth Savinder Singh K D Joti, Viki Choudhary with Gen Vidya and Satish Mehta Managing Director ITC

that too women's football?" asked another bitterly "It is only a spare time activity," said another adding that it did not matter if she could not get the State colours Yet another complained that there was not enough encouragement

So at present, it seems that football has not caught on, at least with the girls Probably they shy away because the game has not yet won much recognition One association official said, "Frankly, we are not satisfied with the progress we are making "

As part of the popularisation programme, the State association plans to send a few coaches to the schools There are three grounds available in Bangalore itself and the association hopes to encourage the youngsters interested in the game by making the girls play intra mural matches This should banish the notion that the game is "un lady like "

The whole thing depends on the success of the promotion plans made by the association If it can manage to foster a few talented youngsters and train them, there is some hope for the game's development The players constituting the present team are no doubt experienced, but they are not likely to stay in the team for long, nor to leave behind any legacy Even Chitra Gangadharan, one of the State's top footballer has hinted that she is not likely to be on the field for long And the rest of them are fading away So, now, the next string of players have to be chosen, and the sooner the better Or else, the question that comes up is at this rate, how much longer will Karnataka be represented in the game at all?

ROOPA KRISHNASWAMY

Golf laurels for Ordnance Hole-y Fore-s

CALCUTTA The delightful golfing season of Calcutta winter swing into feverish action with the beginning of the Wills Favourite Foursome Golf Tournament' held recently at the Fort William Golf course Sponsored by the ITC, the makers of Wills Filter cigarettes the tournament saw spectacular debuts by some aspiring golf amateurs for whom a large number of trophies and prizes were waiting

In all 46 teams vied with each other for the prestigious Wills Favourite Foursome' Trophy on the tees the luxuriant fairways and intricately placed greens of the par 66 golf course The refreshing nip in the air provided the right touch to the morning tee offs on the opening day on October 20 But the weather also tended to induce an air of somnolence in the early rising golfers

The first day awakened interest in 'Ordance Quartet' which comprised national players Bamby and Bunty Randhawa Lt Col H S Randhawa and Baljit Singh with team member Bamby Randhawa's nett being 63

The following days saw an amazing, nett 57 by Harmyan Singh who played to 9 under par The ladies also put in creditable scores Miss Kavita Padgaonkar, who had taken to the game last year brought in a nett 63 Having won a number of competitions already, Kavita also bagged the Ladies Best Net Score Cup in this competition by bringing in the best score over two rounds Mrs Asha Khurana brought in a nett 61, Mrs Aruna Singh a nett 62 and Mrs Pamela Wright a nett 64

The brilliant performance of the Ordnance Hole-y Fore s, comprising senior golfer K D Joti and youngsters Viki Chaudhary, Sanjeev Seth and Savinder Singh took shape with K D Joti's nett 66, Sanjeev Seth's nett 66 and Viki Chaudhary's nett 59, bringing their total in the first round to 196 Playing to 7 under par, Viki Chaudhary put in a steady round Yet to be 16 years old, Viki had taken to the game only two years ago

With Lt Col Randhawa playing to a nett 64, and Bunty Randhawa to 71, Ordnance Quartet finished the first round with 199, barely 3 strokes behind the leading foursome

The mist above the golf course hung low with suppressed expectations on the eve of the second round of the tournament The Ordnance Quartet, though facing a tough task ahead against the more advantageously 'handicapped' Ordnance Hole-y Fore-s, were players with experience and, therefore, psychologically on a par with the latter In spite of the mental pressures, the Ordnance Hole y Fore s refused to be overawed and stuck to more consistent and accurate ball-placing Sanjeev Seth's 64 and 13-year old Savinder Singh's net 63 placed the team into an unassailable position with 196 in the second round Ordnance Quartet battled against the odds but brought in a futile 203

K D Joti, Viki Chaudhary, Sanjeev Seth and Savinder Singh of Ordnance Hole y Fore-s, with an overall 392, won the championship with an awesome 10 strokes over Ordnance Quartet, an added 3 day holiday at a Welcomgroup hotel, and all the laurels

VIKRAM AADITYA CHOUDHURY

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Off his ear—and over the fence

The bye that went for six

A six in leg-byes off the batsman's person

That was the result of a ball from an exceptionally fast Essex bowler, of whom noted cricket critic A A Thomson wrote "He was the only bowler who ever gave away six leg-byes from one ball off the batsman's left ear."

In his day the Essex express was generally accepted as the fastest bowler yet seen – and accorded the awed respect to be commanded in the years that lay ahead by the Larwoods, the Lindwalls, the Truemans, the Tysons. That he fully expected such awed respect is clear from a Cardus story of a batsman taking guard and facing up with his left toe raised from the ground. "Put it down," advised the bowler. "I allow only one batsman to cock a snook at me and that's the old man (meaning, of course W G.) Put it down, young feller."

The batsman was injudicious enough to disregard the advice—and the bowler's fastest yorker landed crash on his toe cap. The 'young feller' was solicitously helped from the ground. In his book *The Last Men* David Frith writes: "So many eminent cricketers of his time (the 1890s) have stated their belief that no one could ever have been faster that it would be a monotony to list them. Yet for one reason or another he never played for England." He may not have represented his country but he has written his name indelibly into the history of cricket.



QUESTION 1 Who was the Essex express?

Only a few years behind the Essex express a bowler of comparable blistering pace was emerging in Australia. He had just turned 20 when he took 6/40 as England were dismissed for 61 in the first innings of the 1904 fifth Test in Melbourne (won by Australia by 218 runs). It was his second Test.

The Australian thunderbolt – he was credited with having broken stumps more than 20 times – toured England twice, his outstanding performances being 7/148 in the fifth Test at The Oval in 1905 and 5/38 in the third Test at Leeds and 6/95 in the fifth Test at The Oval in 1909.

In the Leeds match, which Australia won by 126, England managed only 87 in their second innings in which the Australian pace-man's victims included the top-scorer, Hobbs (30) whom he bowled together with C B Fry, Sharp and Hirst. This time bowler was one of six dissidents who withdrew from the 1912 tour of England over a dispute with the Australian Board of Control. He came from New South Wales and to this day is remembered by his nickname rather than his Christian name. While serving in the Australian Light Horse in World War I he was killed in action by a sniper at Beersheba.

QUESTION 2 Who was this Australian express bowler?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 John Neville Crawford, who died at 76 in 1963.

2 Eighth wicket. It is well clear of the next best eighth wicket partnership, one of them established even earlier – 292 by R Peel (210 not out) and Lord Hawke (166) for Yorkshire against Warwickshire in 1896—and 255 by the West Indians L A V Williams (131 not out) and F A Martindale (134) for Barbados against Trinidad in 1935-36.

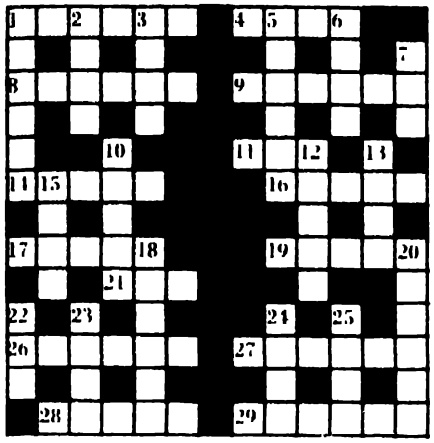
3 Joe Hardstaff (169 not out) in the sixth wicket partnership and Maurice Leyland (187) in the second-wicket stand.

4 Jack Ingleton (136) in the sixth-wicket partnership and Bill Ponsford (266) in the second wicket stand.

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

121



ACROSS

1 Thrasher on the tennis court (6)
4 Neither must you go for an informal dance, nor must you keep the beat (4)
8 Nancy beginning for an Indian tennis player (6)
9 Tennis player who wears a diamond ear-ring in his left ear (1, 5)
11 Sounds like Noah returned as part of this horse race (3)
14 10 down's Christian name (5)
16 Irritate backwards with nagging flight (5)
17 Christmasy start to venue of World Games I (5)
ic19 Bridge and tennis scoring units (5)
21 Scientific margin of boxing victory (1, 1 1)
26 Actors who play only minor parts in cricket? (6)
27 Pakistan Test cricket's youngest cap tain fails to make it (5, 1)
28 Hunted animal contest? (4)
29 Fishy movement (6)

DOWN

1 First double cardinal number begins this game (6)
2 Baseball team (4)
3 A vane Godfrey is lost and forgetful (4)
5 Black and white supervisor (6)
6 Adapt yourselves to wearing any cape for running (4)
7 Fasten cricket end (3)
10 Animal doctor in the middle of this athlete (5)
12 "Ever Onward" (5)
13 His life and the beautiful game (4)
15 Pitfall at the range (4)
18 Emperor of the Calcutta maidan (5, 1)
20 Beatified cricket equipment (6)
22 Little Elizabeth tied to the stake at the course (3)
23 Return to courage in tennis (4)
24 Forgetful Jim is barefoot (4)
25 Cricket examination (4)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

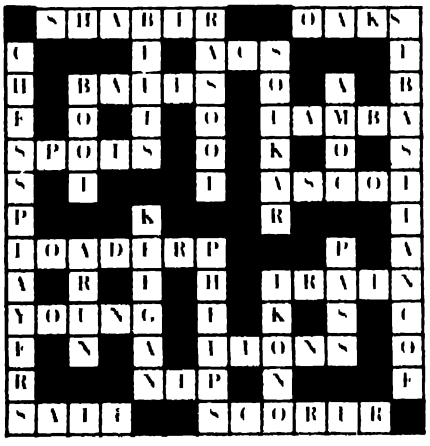
QUESTIONS

1 When and where were the first Commonwealth Games held?
2 In which Olympics Japan won all the swimming golds except that in the 400 m free-style?
3 Why was Mrs Iolanda Balas Soeter of Rumania famous in her maiden days?
4 In which year was the International Cricket Conference formed?
5 Who is Teodora Unqureanu?
6 Who was the first woman to swim the English Channel?
7 A famous discus-thrower participated in Six Olympiads in one of which she defied an arm injury to venture the one throw permitted to her and won the gold Identify her
8 The official poster for the 1982 World Soccer championships is the work of a famous artist Name him
9 A hockey player was rushed to reinforce the Indian team in an Olympic city but he was not allowed to assist the side because he was not an Indian national Guess who?
10 October 24 1968 is a black day in the history of India's sport Why?

ANSWERS

1 1930 Hamilton, Ontario (Canada)
2 Los Angeles 1932
3 She was twice Olympic champion and twice European champion in high jump
4 1909
5 Humanitarian woman gymnast (a contemporary and friend of Nadia Comaneci)
6 Gertrud Ederle a German American
7 Lia Manoliu of Rumania
8 Joan Mino
9 C S Gurung was sent to Helsinki for nothing
10 On that day Australia defeated India in the Olympic hockey semi final as a result of which India failed for the first time to make the final

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 120



Question box

Jeetendra Punjabi, Calcutta
Q Who is Narasimha Rao's first Test victim?
A Skipper Alvin Kallicharran of West Indies
Q Which Indian bowler has conceded most runs in an innings? When?
A Vinoo Mankad who conceded 228 runs in the 5th Test against West Indies at Kingston in 1952-53

Sumont Salway, Thane
Q How many Tests did C D Gopinath play for India and how many runs did he make?
A Gopinath played in 8 Tests for India, in which he made 4 zeroes

N K Nawin, Bhagalpur
Q Who has scored highest number of runs in one calendar year?
A Vivian Richards of West Indies, who scored 1,710 runs in 11 Tests in the calendar year 1976

Sanjay Agarwal, Lucknow
Q Who is the first batsman to score a triple century in Tests?
A Andy Sandham of England scored the first triple century (325) against West Indies at Kingston in 1929 30
Subhash Saha, Murshidabad
Q What is Chauhan's full name?
A Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan

Amit Biswas, Kalimpong
Q. Who bowled the highest consecutive maiden overs?
A R G Nadkarni of India (21 5 overs)

Amar Datta, Ranaghat
Q What was the bowling analysis of Kapil Dev and Ghavri in the 3rd Test vs Australia at Kanpur in 1979 80?
A Kapil Dev 27-5 78-2 and 17 2 5-30-4, Ghavri 23 3 5-65-3 and 11 0 28-1

Lalan Siddiquee, Jamshedpur
Q How many wickets has Dymock taken on his debut? .
A 2 for 44 and 5 for 58

Bijoy Gogoi, Digboi, Sheikh Ashif Ali, Muri, Joyant Acharya, Patna
Q What is the Test bowling record of Imran Khan?
A 8,313 balls, 264 maidens 3,769 runs 128 wickets 29 44 average, 8 times 5 wickets in an innings and once 10 wickets in a match 6 63 best bowling

G Raghu Ram, Jamshedpur
Q How many players have bagged 'pair" on debut?
A G F Grace C I J Smith, G A Gooch from England M Whitney from Australia C C Wimble, J T I Willoughby, J J Kotze P S T Jones T A Ward, C D Dixon C N McCarthy from South Africa, A F Valentine from West Indies, K C James, F T Badcock, L A Butterfield, C G Rowe B P Bracewell from New Zealand and G S Ramchand from India have bagged a 'pair' on debut

Rajan Pal, Sahebganj.
Q. When, where and against whom India played her first Test?
A. Against England at Lord's in 1932

Sanjay Kumar Chowdhury, Darbhanga.
Q. Who has scored the highest number of half centuries in Tests?
A. Geoff Boycott of England has made 40 half centuries in 104 Tests

Debashish Moitra, Gorakhpur
Q. How many centuries and fifties has Gavaskar hit in Tests?
A. 23 centuries and 27 half centuries in 69 Tests

Pradeep Kumar Thakur, Calcutta.
Q. Who scored the quickest century in Tests?
A. J M Gregory of Australia, who made a century in 70 minutes in the Test vs South Africa at Johannesburg in 1921-22

P. Srinivasan, Bangarapet.
Q. Who appoints Test commentators and who pays their remuneration—Cricket Board or AIR?
A. All India Radio appoints commentators for Tests, and Government of India pays for the commentary

Narayan Sahai, Patna.
Q. How many Tests have Chauhan played and how many runs in these Tests has he made?
A. 40 Tests in which he has made 2,084 runs @ 31 57 runs per innings

Syed Ibrahim, Bangalore.
Q. Is there any batsman other than Vishwanath who has played over 50 Tests without a break since debut?
A. No Even Vishwanath did not play consecutive Tests since his debut He missed 2 Tests after his first four Tests

G. Raghuram, Ashok Kumar, P. Sharma, Jamshedpur.
Q. Who is the only Indian batsman to bat on all the five days of the Test match?
A. M L Jaisimha.

S. M. R. Islam, Burdwan.
Q. What are the dates of birth of Yashpal, Yadav and Yajurvindra Singh?
A. Yashpal was born on 11 8 1954, Yadav on 26 1 57 and Yajurvindra on 1 8 1952

Ratan Kishore Tiwari, Bhagalpur.
Q. What is Dilip Vengsarkar's date of birth?
A. 6th April 1956

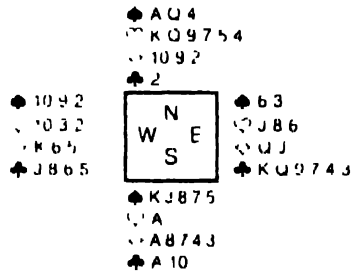
Satish Kumar Gupta, Deoghar.
Q What is Vishwanath's highest score at Bombay?
A. 113 made in the fifth Test vs England in 1972-73

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

A pleasing event, which is relatively new on the calendar, is the London Trophy for NON-Bridge clubs, in other words, sports and social clubs and their like who happen to have a bridge section or a nucleus of keen players A nice idea, and in the third year of the competition (which is played on teams-of four, knock out lines) the entry had grown to 81 clubs in the London area Full details from C Leighton 78 Glenwood Gardens, Ilford Essex (01 350 7303), entries by September

Although you won't meet any 'professional sharks' in the event, it doesn't mean that the hands will be uninteresting This was a deal from an earlier final with points of interest in both bidding and play



North dealt with East West vulnerable and the losing finalists bid as follows

SOUTH	NORTH
	1 ♡
2 ♠	3 ♡
4 ♢	4 ♠
pass	

You may argue that North should have supported his partner's spades immediately, but I think that the blame for missing the reasonable slam rests with South It is usually a mistake to force with two-suited hands, and when the spade support finally came, it was by no means clear that it was so good At the other table, South started with one-spade, with the forcing bid of three-diamonds in reserve over a heart rebid The auction went smoothly to six-spades

Suppose that you play in the small slam, and get a club lead? There may be an improvement, but at first glance I would win, unblock ♡A and cash ♠K and ♠Q If trumps are 3-2, I can ruff a heart high, draw the last trump and succeed against 4-2 hearts If trumps prove to be 4-1, I can start on the hearts (throwing a club first) and hoping for a 3-3 break As soon as a defender ruffs, I can win the return, draw the last trump with ♠A and cash the rest of the hearts

Last week's quiz: we had been discussing the cost of sacrificing against a vulnerable game by the opponents when your side was not vulnerable, and I asked you whether you would be prepared to lose 500 points. It is an old chestnut – at duplicate, of course, for it is an obvious saving But at rubber bridge it is a rather poor bet You will have lost your 500 points and – the key factor so often overlooked – it is still 3-1 that your opponents will win the rubber The way to win at rubber bridge is to minimise your losses!

This week's quiz: at game all, you hold, as South ♠ A Q J 9 7 2 ♡ A K 4 3 ♢ 10 3 ♣ 10 West deals and opens one club, your partner overcalls with one-diamond and East bids two-clubs Well, what action should you take – three clubs, two-spades, three-spades or four spades?

Chess

Peter Clarke

A significant gap in the ground covered by the Batsford Algebraic Chess Openings series (edited by R G Wade) has been filled by the publication of *The Morra (Smith) Gambit* (£6 95 in paperback) by the Hungarian IM Janos Flesch As the author puts it, this system (1 P K4, P QB4; 2 P-Q4, P×P, 3 P-QB3) is "rich in marvellous strategems" and "no born attacking player could find a better weapon on the Sicilian battlefield" I should add that it makes a very good choice for White if he is much better than his opponent, but a very bad choice if he is much worse, and I offer two games to support this The first is from a semi-serious event, a blindfold simultaneous display in Hungary in 1959 White Flesch, Black Sos 1 P - K4, P - QB4, 2 P - Q4, P × P, 3 P QB3 P × P, 4 Kt × P, Kt - QB3, 5 Kt B3, P - Q3, 6 B - QB4, P - K3 7 O O, Kt B3, 8 Q K2, P QR3, 9 R Q1 Q - R4 10 B B4, Kt K4 11 Kt × Kt P × Kt 12 B Q2 Q - B2, 13 QR B1, B Q2, 14 B × RP, R × B, 15 Kt - Kt5, Q Kt3, 16 B K3, Q - R4, 17 Kt - B7ch, K - K2, 18 P QKt4, Q × RP, 19 Q Q3, Q - R5, 20 Kt × R Q × Kt, 21 R - B8, Q × Q, 22 B B5ch, Q Q3, 23 B × Qmate The second comes from one of the strongest tournaments ever held in the USA

White **Kenneth Smith**, Black **Henrique Mecking**, Sicilian Defence (San Antonio 1972)

1 P - K4, P QB4,	2 P - Q4, P × P
3 P QB3, P × P,	4 Kt × P, Kt - QB3
5 Kt - B3, P - Q3,	6 B - QB4, P QR3
7 O O, Kt - B3,	8 P - QR3

This secures the position of the Bishop on the QR2 × Kt8 diagonal White's development is easy and he can afford to proceed calmly

8 P - K3,	9 Q - K2, P R3
10 R Q1 P K4	

Now a fight to gain control of the centre But the weakness of the Q4 square could be seen

11 Kt Q5, B K2,	12 B K3, Kt - Kt
13 P × Kt	

Better was natural and Letter was 13 B × Kt, giving White a small edge, for the pawn

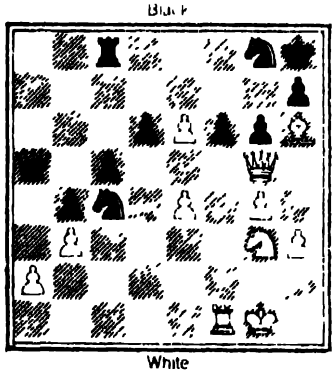
13 Kt - Kt1,	14 Kt × P?

Smith probably had P - B4 in mind when playing his previous move The aim is to break open the Q file and attack down both the Q file and the K line However it is not good enough

14 P × Kt,	15 P B4 P × P
16 P - Q6, P × B,	17 Q - P, Kt B3
18 B - Q5, O O,	19 B × Kt, B Kt4
20 Resigns	

Competition 6491 Solution last week

Black



White

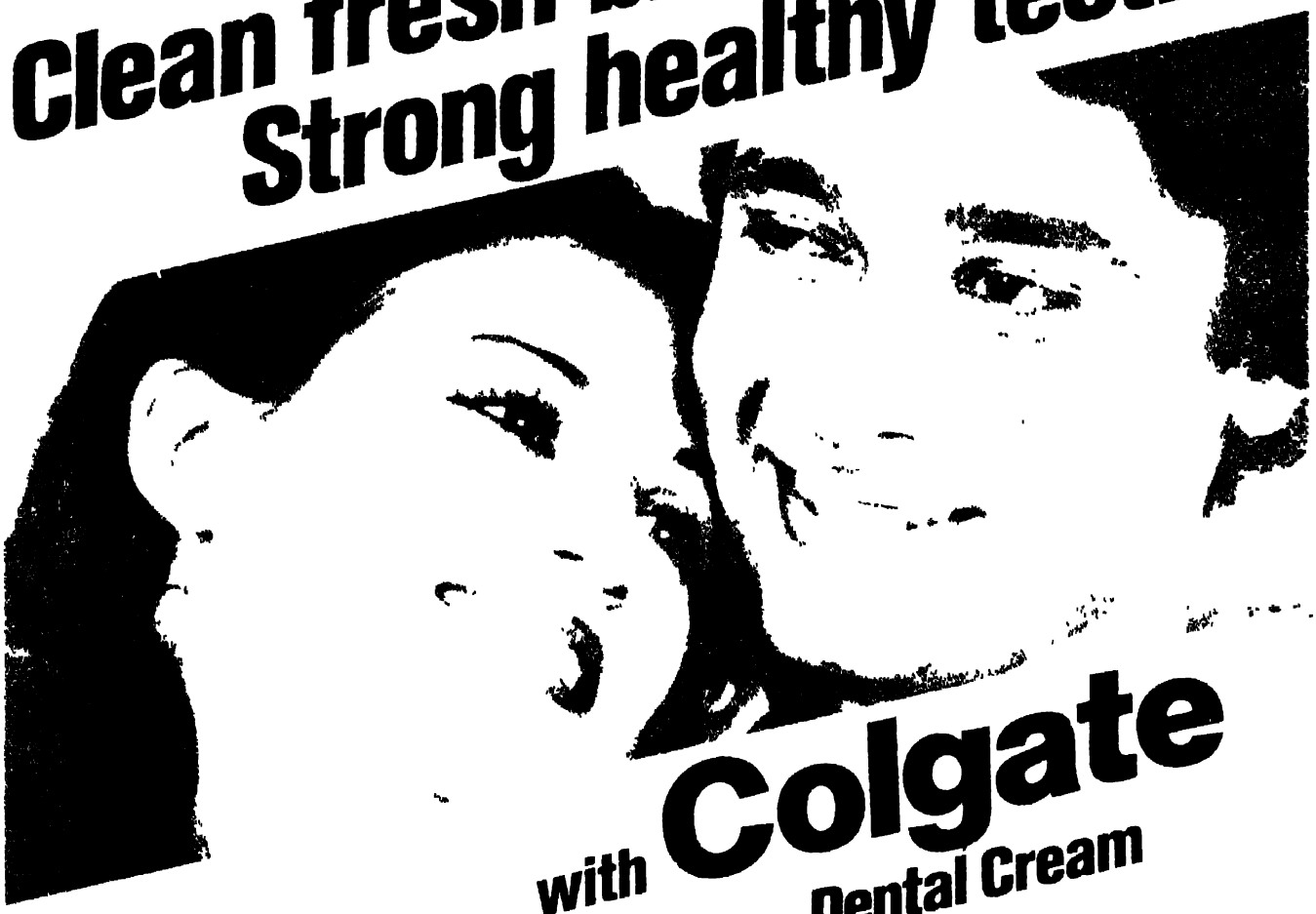
Solution to 6490 (Allegat Alekhine, Paris, 1914) (r4rk1 / p3b2p / 1p1p2p1 2pPp2n 2P1P1q1 3B2R1 / PP2Q2P / R1B2NK1 Black to play.) The future World Champion finished White off by 21 R × Kt(h 22 K × R Kt × Kt(h 23 P × Kt Q × KtP 24 Q Kt R KB1ch 25 K K2 Q Kt(h and White resigned (26 K K1e B R5ch 27 K Q2 P Kt3 etc

Problem No 1158 Solution next week

W Speckmann (Second Prize *Die Schwalbe* 1970) (8 / 5p2 / 2R5 / 8 8 /3K4 . 8 3k4 2 white men 2 black) White to play and mate in five moves

Solution to No 1155 (Preziosi) (8 1p2p3 1P2Bp2 1Q1P1Pp1 / 2N1PnR1 Rp1k1N2 p3pP2 Kbn1B3 mate in two,) 1 Q B5 (dis/ch) K B7 2 Kt Kt3 (dis/ch) K B7 2 Q Q4 (d) 1 Kt × B 2 Kt Kt3

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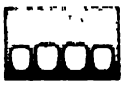
How Colgate's trusted formula works



Odour and decay causing bacteria grow in food particles trapped between your teeth



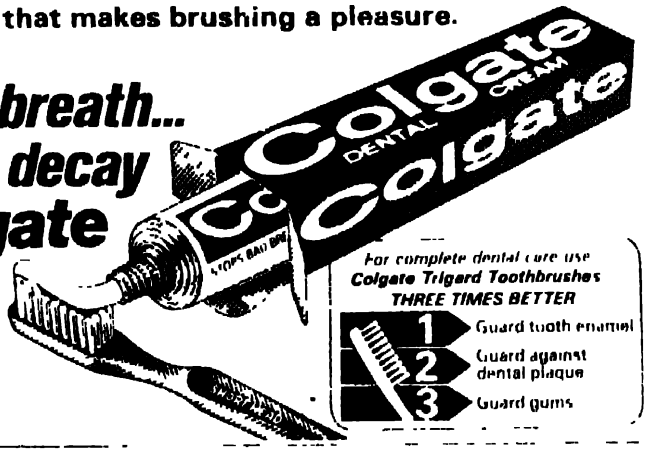
Colgate's unique active foam reaches deep to remove dangerous food particles and bacteria



The result attractive white teeth fresh-breath confidence, protection against decay

Colgate has the fresh, minty taste that makes brushing a pleasure.

Stop bad breath... Fight tooth decay with Colgate Dental Cream



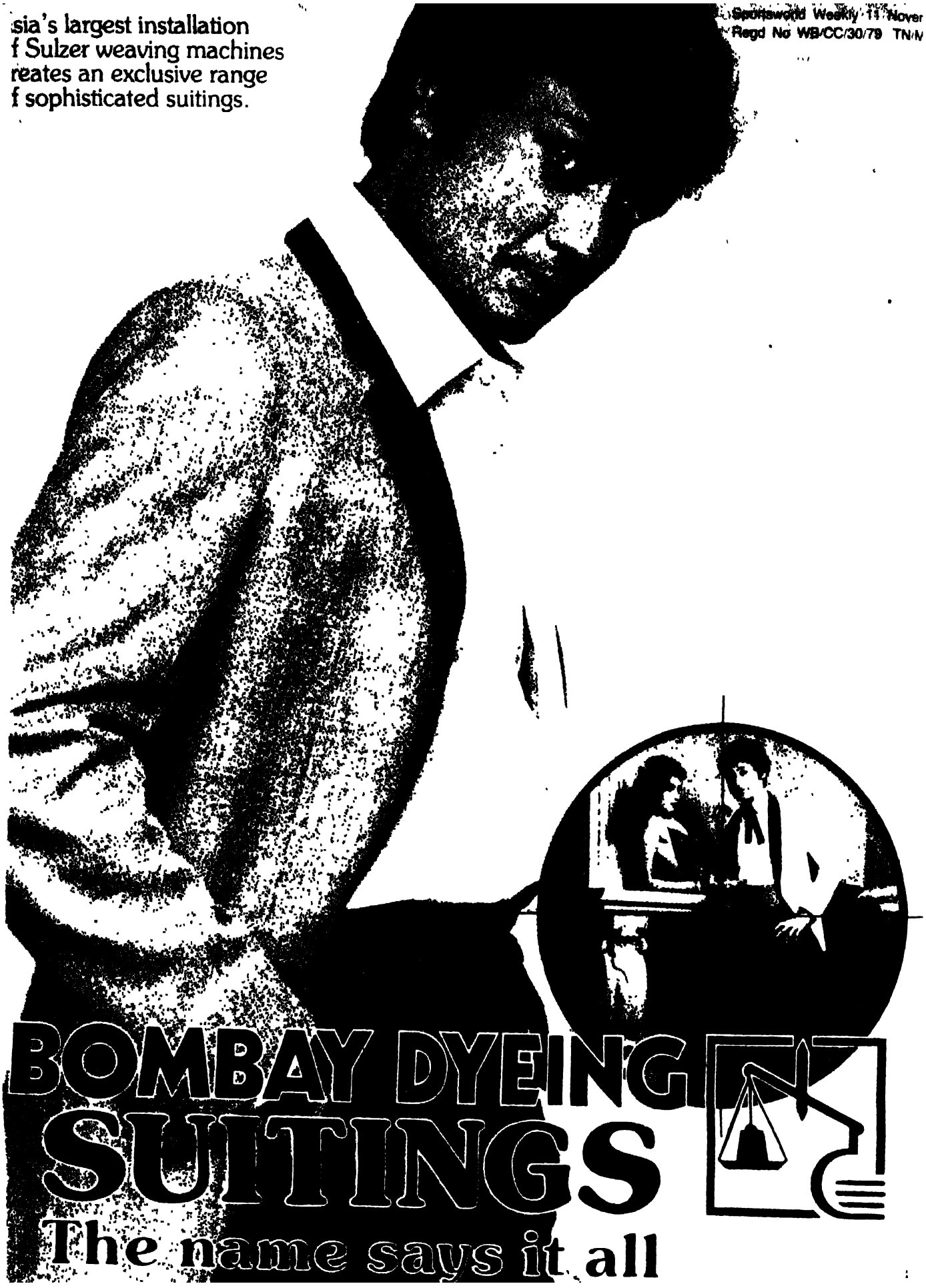
For complete dental care use
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1 Guard tooth enamel
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18 NOVEMBER 1981

Sportsworld



BHAICHUNG COME BACK TO ROSE

Chuni Goswami remembers J. Kittu


For that certain kind of man
Godrej
New
Menthol Mist
LATHER SHAVING CREAM
Godrej Shaving Cream
Creamy cologney lather!

Sportsworld 18 November 1981

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Letters to the Editor

Magnanimous decision!

THE suspense and tension relating to the forthcoming tour of English cricket team to India which rocked the cricketing world has thankfully ended giving immense relief and pleasure to the millions of cricket enthusiasts in this country. I thank India's Prime Minister for her timely intervention in the bitter controversy. This controversy should never have risen. A nation that had initiated the crusade against apartheid and had been fighting relentlessly against racialism we feel need not produce any more evidence to prove the validity of our stance.

Actually the South African link is a convenient ploy used by the politicians all over the world to cover up their failure on their domestic front. Let it be known that it is sports that brings nations together and fosters world unity. It has achieved and will continue to achieve it allowed by the politicians. What the latter have failed to do after numerous Cancuns and Melbournes.

Some may think that the sports enthusiasts are not concerned over racialism prevailing in South Africa. We are dead against this and also condemn this policy of South Africa. But let sports not be allowed to get mixed up with politics.

P. S. VIJAY
Trivandrum

PLEASE convey our heartiest congratulations to our Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi for solving the Boycott Cook problem. It has been possible only due to her timely intervention in this impasse. It thus clearly indicate her love for sport. The B. C. C. I. Chairman Mr. Wankhede also deserve praise and thanks. We are eagerly looking forward to an exciting series between India and England this winter.

PRABAL GUHA and others
Baligan North

THANKS to our Prime Minister for her magnanimity in view of the welfare of cricket. I also convey my good wishes to the Government of India for its wise decision in this regard. The suspense and tension which have been tormenting the lovers of cricket are now over. We are now looking forward to the ensuing Anglo Indian Test series.

R. K. CHATTERJEE
Uttarpara

Error

SUDHIR VAIDYA had written in the 1st of October that Kapil Dev had hit no sixes in his knock of 126 not out against West Indies at Delhi in 1979-80. But it may be recalled that Kapil had hit Sylvester Clarke over mid-wicket for a six and then reached his century.

PHILIP K. GEORGE
New Delhi

Poor show

EAST BENGAL CLUB put up a poor show in the DCM tournament this year. It is high time for the club to form a team for the next year with the best available talent instead of depending more upon the outstation players. The club should also see that the team built is a blend of youth and experience.

RAKHI ROY
Calcutta

THE year 1981 for recall between East Bengal Club Having assembled so many star footballers from different part of the country and pending so much money on their East Bengal performance in the recent tournament this year have been a let down. Instead of handpicking so many footballers the club committee should accept the services of local talents who in the absence of proper chance are picked by clubs especially rammed about in their career. They seem to be bogged by so many foreign players to play in the big clubs. It is high time for the authorities of the club to give a second thought over the issue and to get some player from other State.

D. K. CHOUDHURY
Madras

BEING an ardent supporter of East Bengal Club I must confess that the performance of the club in various

Kapil Dev says
"My beard's tough. Only Palmolive Shave Cream softens it!"



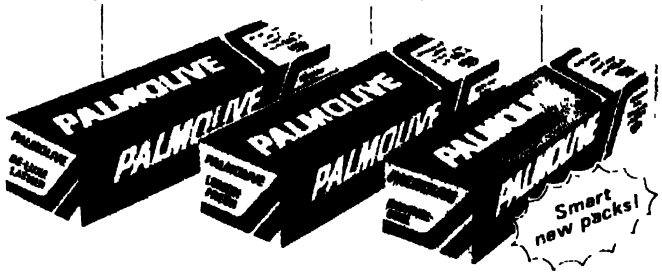
Because only Palmolive Shave Cream has SGL-4 for rich 'Moisturized Lather' to soften the toughest beard.

Palmolive Shave Cream has exclusive ingredient SGL-4. It gives you rich 'Moisturized Lather' that stays moist through the shave. This softens the toughest beard, and your razor glides smoothly. You get **the most comfortable close shave.**

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tournaments this year has frustrated me. The responsibility of this debacle must be entirely borne by the club officials led by Nisith Ghosh. He must resign and leave the club in the hands of those who genuinely love the club. I blame the club members who, forgetting the rich tradition of the club, have voted for these persons.

P. K. MITRA,
Allahabad

Congrats

CONGRATULATIONS to Raju Mukherjee for publishing the bold article in the issue of October 21. The East Zone selectors have proved their callousness by including an unfit bowler like Barun Burman in the East Zone team, and by excluding players like Hari Gidwani, Ashish Sinha, Michael Dalvi, Hyder Ali and Parasatullah from the East Zone team. I wish the selectors would give up the State-wise quota system and include these players along with young player like Venkatram in the East Zone to play against the touring MCC side.

SHABIR ALI,
Jamshedpur

Hope and disappointment

SUNIL GAVASKAR is again conjuring his admirers with some delightful centuries in first class matches. He has scored four centuries in a row this season. He scored two magnificent hundreds in the Wills Trophy matches, one effortless century in the Irani Trophy against the Rest of India and an unbeaten century in the Duleep Trophy against Central Zone. I think Sunny will score centuries after centuries against the MCC this season.

But side by side with Sunny's return to form, a dark cloud of disappointment and dejection pervades Indian cricket due to the continuous failure of India's another little master G. R. Vishwanath. The maestro who has served Indian cricket for the last 12 years needs rest now. From the sixth Test against Australia at Bombay in 1979 to the third and final Test against New Zealand in 1981 he has scored only a single century. In the domestic cricket also he has been a constant failure with bat. I am sorry to opine that it is high time now to exclude Vishwanath from the Test side and include in his place a promising young batsman.

V. BALA CHANDRAN,
Calcutta

Shastri's match

THE Irani Trophy match between Bombay and the Rest of India was simply Ravi Shastri's match. He was the only difference between the two sides. But one should not underestimate the performances of Patil, Doshi and Madanlal in the encounter. The BCCI should be booed if they do not include Madanlal in place of Ghavri in the future Tests. The match signified the end of Ghavri from the Test scene and the re-entry of Madanlal. Lastly, we feel sorry for Barun Burman, who could not continue the match due to muscle pains. Anyway, the Duleep Trophy is not far off and I request the BCCI to keep an eye on the players like Kirti Azad, Srikkanth, Srinivasan, Arunlal, Barun and Gaekwad.

PRABAL GUHA,
Baligan North

RAVI SHASTRI's stunning performance in the Irani Trophy confirms his rising stature in Indian cricket. Ever since he got his break into Test cricket, Shastri has marched from strength to strength and has proved that he has the makings of a top class bowler. He has hit the scene just as spectacularly as Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar, and promises to become a world class performer like them.

VIJAY CHORGADE,
Pune

Thanks

THANKS to *Sportsworld* for publishing the article "My life in Denmark" by Prakash Padukone. Before the emergence of Prakash as a top class player, there was not much interest amongst Indian followers of the game about our international performance. But things have changed for the better. Now whenever there is a match of Prakash, we anxiously wait to hear the news. We hope that *Sportsworld* should publish more articles about Prakash.

K. ROY CHOUDHURY,
Howrah

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

'KEEPER'S CATCH!

Birmingham: That was certainly an extra ordinary catch and Aussie wicket-keeper Rodney Marsh can justifiably take every credit for it. During the recent one day cricket international between England and Australia, a streaker ran on to the Edgbaston pitch as a dare, and was caught in a Marsh The magistrates fined him £25

WHISTLE STOPPER

Wembley: They're everywhere these days—rowing at Henley, riding in the Grand National, running marathons, climbing Everest, sports editing the New York Times, circling the earth, umpiring at Wimbledon The world of sport is fast becoming a ladies' game and now Elizabeth Forsdick encouraged by her husband "as a joke", is the first woman to become a class I referee eligible to handle Football League and F A Cup Matches She's red—carded a few sharp-shooting guys and has emerged a winner in every match she's refereed so far She'll probably cause some (wolf) whistles at Wembley soon!

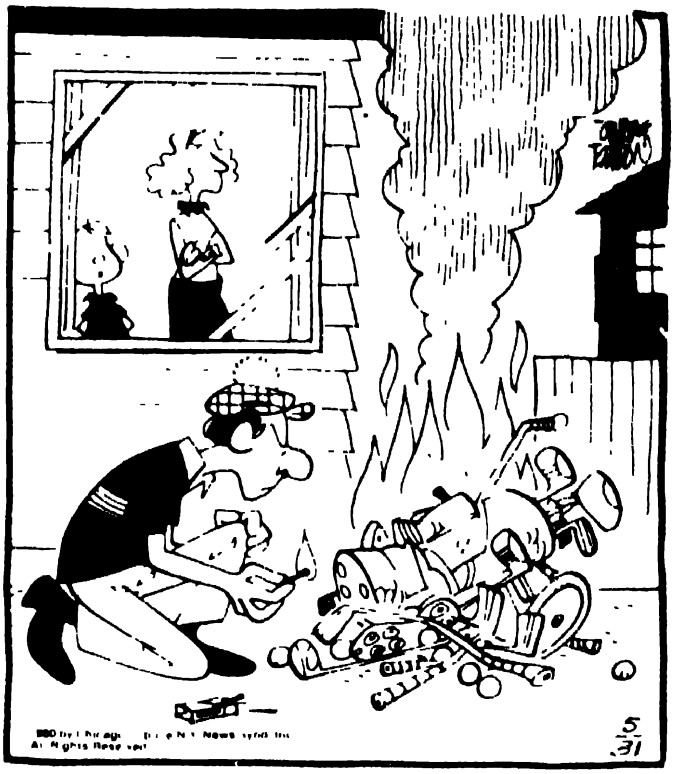
HEADS YOU LOSE

Cambridge: A news report in the Cambridge Review read as follows "Cambridge lost the annual Boat Race (vsOxford) for the 7th year in succession Another notable intellectual achievement "

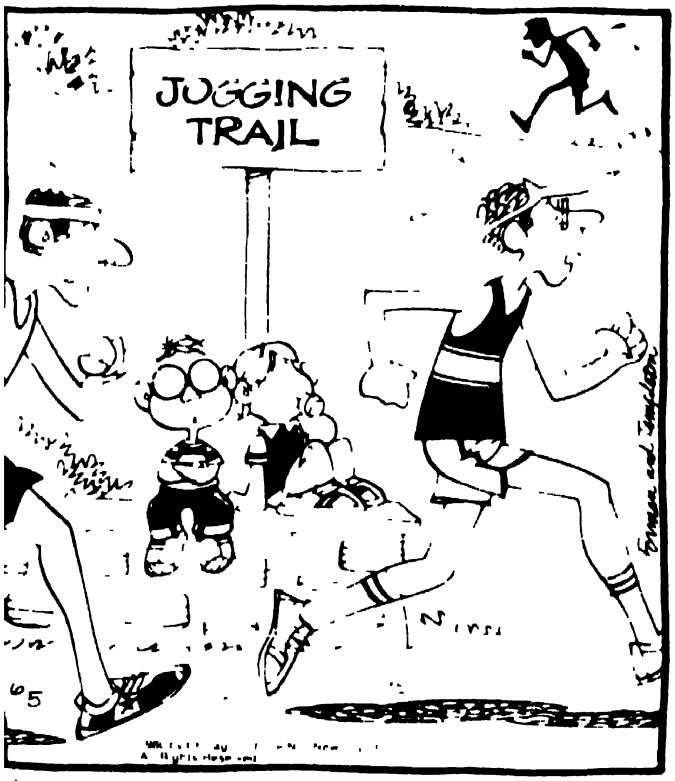
BE A SPORT PUSH!

Haringey Ads appearing in sports journals for beefy chaps with big behinds should not be misconstrued They're merely required as job-a-bobbers by the British Bobsleigh Association which is recruiting heavies from other sports to shove their weight around at the New River Sports Centre So if you have the push but lack a sport, you could use it here to good effect

BERNIE TELLIS



"IS THAT THE SAME GUY WHO TELLS ME NEVER TO GET MAD WHEN I LOSE A LITTLE LEAGUE GAME?"



"MAYBE THE WORLD IS A GIANT TREAD-MILL AND THEY'RE THE HAMSTERS"



"FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN WHITE WATER, BILLINGSLY?"

Sportsworld Serial

Aftermath of the Sunday match

The match against Ayr United on Sunday, in which he was not played, led to a distressing situation. This extract—second of the series—describing the aftermath, is taken from "Where do I go from here? An Autobiography of George Best." The book is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co, London.

A DAMP Friday afternoon in February Cars [illegible] and people hurry through the Edinburgh mist, the lights along Prince Street draw shoppers to the warmth of stores, buses fill with people going home, going somewhere. Me, I stand at my hotel window looking out, gazing at the figures far below. Simply filling time with forty eight hours to kill before Sunday's Cup game against Ayr United. Looking out of the window or watching television, not for the programmes but for the company of the voices. The painter or the writer might profit from the time spent studying people in the street. Other people are what they work with. I just wanted to be out there among them; to be one of them.

It could never be, not in Britain. The moment I walked through the hotel door it was like running the gauntlet. A pen and piece of paper would be thrust into my hand, some stranger would want to talk, another to shake my hand, others to smile, stare, insult, wave. How could I join those people in the bus queues when I'd spent my adult life crossing to the other side of the street to avoid them? So I stayed in my room until, as the night drew in, the telephone brought the invitations, the drinks and the company that was preferable to the solitude. Everybody, it seemed, was happy to drink with George Best, and who was I to disappoint them? It didn't take too many drinks to become the George Best they wanted to drink with.

The other George Best wouldn't have interested them much. There aren't too many people willing to spend their afternoons in an overheated hotel room watching second class racing with yesterday's superstar. I don't know that I found it easy myself. I wanted to lead a normal life, not merely exist. My life had consisted of doing something to the full or not doing it at all. Tomorrow was the next day when the match reports were read, or the hangover came on or the girl got dressed and went home to bed. Today was the day I played the game to please the millions—and how they loved it! Tomorrow was for the nine to five man who sweated one third of his day away for his wife and kids and read about Georgie Best, superstar, to relieve the boredom. He didn't want to read about some lonely mixed-up Irishman who couldn't come to terms with what he wanted from life. That might have been too much like his own life and he didn't need reminding of that. What was it they said when Wyatt Earp, an old man thinking about dying, began to tell of Tombstone and the gunfight at the OK Corral, how it really was? 'To hell with the truth, print the legend.' That's how it had been over more than a decade for Georgie Best. People wanted to read about the legend.

Or did they? The newspapers rarely gave them the chance to forget the old stories, as I was soon to discover yet again. And once more I would learn to my cost that you should never trust the media. What they have they use to their own advantage. Like the Scandinavian magazine I'd been doing a story with earlier in the week. Usual thing, a reporter and a photographer, the photographer clicking his way through a couple of rolls of film while I try to concentrate on the same boring routine of questions and answers. This particular day, though, things had gone wrong from the start. The reporter had made a muddle of the arrangements and when we finally met up I was having a few, quiet, after-training lagers with several of the Hibs lads in a bar near the North British, my temporary home. Nothing heavy, just taking it easy, talking and taking the mickey out of everyone and everything the way most players do. But this reporter, he's starting to get restless because I'm feeling loose and not in such a hurry as he is. Maybe I should have been. He was paying for the story. But it was early, and I had a whole afternoon and evening in front of me with nothing definite to do. I saw no reason to hurry. In the end, he got so unpleasant that I gave him back his cheque and told him to stuff the interview. I didn't want to do it.

They soon got their own back, though. Friday night in the hotel bar eased into Saturday, Saturday became Saturday night. And on Saturday night, following the rugby international between Scotland and France, there was one almighty party going on in the North British. Players, fans, Frenchmen, Scots, it was bedlam, but it was better than sitting in my room on my own. The drinks were coming fast and furious. Someone introduced me to Jean-Pierre Rives, the French captain, and we talked and drank, or rather I did the drinking. He'd had enough. The main difference, though, was that he'd played his game and I still had mine to play the next day. Except that I didn't. When Tom Hart, the Hibs chairman, came by for me on Sunday I was out like a light, sleeping off a week's misery and as many days' drinking. It had happened before. I'd been on a three day binge in Manchester earlier in the season and missed Hibs' game at Morton. On that occasion they'd been terrific and tried to cover up for me, despite the fact that the moment I made my peace I was back in the car and heading down to Manchester again. This time I'd gone too far once too many times. I was told to pack my bags and get back to London. Hibs, struggling in the Scottish Premier Division, no longer needed me. Why pay two and a half thousand pounds a game to a drink? I was out, and on Sunday afternoon, while Hibs beat Ayr 2-0 in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup, I flew back to London to an angry, uncertain, but understanding wife.

ON Monday the Press had a field day. They put our flat in Putney under siege from the early hours, camped on the stairs, drank the neighbours' milk, and rang the doorbell incessantly until the door was opened and some words, however few, were spoken. Grown men sprawled in their cars for hours in case we left the flat. And somewhere, in Stockholm, Copenhagen or wherever he was, that photographer went through his rolls of film and found a shot of George Best, looking as if he's falling asleep in the middle of a really mad drinking session. You need only get the angle right, make sure the glasses on the table are in shot, crop the picture a bit if necessary and you can flog it around the world. World exclusive picture of George Best on the binge that ended his career with Hibernian. And conveniently forget to say the photo was taken in advance of the event. Who cares?

Seemingly a great number of people cared about George Best, judging from the letters, cards and telegrams that follow my more publicised misdemeanours. That Monday, the messages were approaching a hundred by the

end of the day. Religious organisations with the right intentions and the wrong solutions, my Dad in Belfast, naturally deeply concerned, former footballers with their answers to their own drink problems, fans saying 'you're still the greatest', Fulham offering training facilities if I wanted them. And among them all a telegram saying 'We think we can help you', unsigned but giving a London phone number. There was something about it, the way it came during the first real lull in the day as Angela and I were sitting there, not going over and over why I'd made a mess of everything again but enjoying a moment of peace and togetherness without the phone ringing or the Press banging on the door. Even the dog was all barked out.

Angela opened the envelope, and for the first time that day her voice had some lift in it.

'What do you think?' She asked after reading it aloud.

I looked at her, non committal. She looked so eager and at the same time desperate. There'd been other times like this, times she'd sworn she'd taken enough, and each time she'd given me another chance.

'Oh, come on, Bestie', she cried. 'I'm going to call them. At least see who they are.'

'They' were an organisation called Conservation of Manpower, run by a very helpful sympathetic guy called Boris Serebro in St Swithin's Lane in the heart of the City. Angela made an appointment and the next day we went along. No hassle. It was almost too easy, as if fate had provided the perfect answer. Except, of course, it wouldn't be easy because solving my problem was ultimately in my own hands. The Conservation of Manpower could only help. They could provide Antibuse pills to make my system react against alcohol, they could give me regular oxygen treatment to alleviate the pressure that built up in my head and set off the depressions that led to the drinking bouts, and they listened whenever Angela or I needed to talk to them.

In some ways, they were as important to Angela as they were to me. Once I'd come to terms with taking the pills every day—I usually have to be pushed into taking even vitamins or aspirin—then at least I knew I couldn't drink. And I thought this would give Angela the opportunity to unwind. Instead, as I began to have more confidence in the treatment, she grew more and more miserable and depressed. When I mentioned this at the clinic one day, Boris Serebro smiled softly and nodded in agreement.

'We've seen it happen so many times,' he explained. 'The wife has to hold all the tension inside her over the years, just to keep life going as normally as possible. The fear and the hurt all become part of her life. You think you're on the way to stopping drinking and you expect Angela to lose those barriers she's had to build up to protect herself. It may take her as long



George Best after a few drinks

as it takes you. It depends whether or not you abuse her trust in you. But bring her in, get her to come and talk to me one day. It'll help her to know why she feels the way she does.'

It was only then that I began to realise just how deeply I was hurting her by these sudden drinking bouts that would virtually without warning completely disrupt our life. Her health was suffering far more than mine had ever done. Indeed, as I learnt later, her own doctor in America could tell when I was drinking heavily from how ill she looked. Even in the months to come there would be days of apprehension when she knew I'd gone out without first taking the Antibuse pill. I suppose it was thoughtless and inconsiderate, but there would be days when I'd want to go without the pills. Not so that I could go off and drink, but because I wanted to beat this thing on my own. I needed help, I knew that, but pride, pig headedness, or determination made me want to achieve it without being totally dependent on something. It was a risk, rather like beating two defenders and taking the ball up to a third instead of passing to a team mate. There was a chance of success, a challenge, and if it came off the satisfaction would be all the greater.

The clinic had something else going for it too. Next door was one of the best cake and pastry shops I've ever seen, and when it comes to cream cakes I consider myself something of a connoisseur. Right from the days as a kid in Manchester when I was madly in love with a girl called Maria. We used to baby sit for relations of hers who owned a bakery and cake shop and lived above it. I think that's what started me off on the cream cakes as well. Romantic evenings in front of the telly became mini trauma runs up and down the stairs gathering and pouring cream cakes. It must have done wonders for her spots and her figure, but I don't remember that. I was fifteen and so much in love. The age when you're in and out of love every week, a girl on the bus I was into but

queues in those days) or the blonde in the typing pool at the Manchester Ship Canal Company where I worked when I first joined United. They were all older than me of course, older women and vastly experienced, probably all of eighteen or nineteen. Not that I ever talked to them. Not that I talked to many people in those days. My accent was so broad that everything I said had to be repeated three or four times before I was understood. I found it easier to say nothing.

Talking to the doctor at the clinic, however, set me to thinking again about writing a book, setting out my story as I saw it. Everyone else had had their say, it seemed. I'd tried before, several times in the past few years. I even had a publisher. But the writing didn't come as easily as I'd thought. Having signed my name to countless newspaper articles hadn't helped, I suppose. Talking to someone who converts the spoken word to written word is not the same as sitting there yourself, pen in hand, trying to fill the space between the blue lines. I'd known times when my head was full of ideas which I'd jot down on a pad.

By the following week I had another good reason for wanting to start work on a book. Tom Hart was willing to take me back at Hibs provided I kept up with the treatment and, with Angela, lived in Edinburgh for the rest of the season. They'd help us find a flat. It was a wonderful, generous offer, a chance to get fully fit, train regularly, and play. But it also meant being in a new city with most afternoons free—and afternoons can be dangerous. Working on a book would occupy my time, and it would also enable me to look back over my life—at the good and bad times—and perhaps discover what if anything was making me go off on these destructive binges.

So it was that the beginning of March 1980 saw the return of George Best to Easter Road. There wasn't the same blaze of publicity that followed my departure but that didn't particularly trouble anyone. And to ease the pressure a little Hibs provided me with an alias and moved me temporarily to the other end of Edinburgh's Princes Street into the Caledonian Hotel. Angela and I became Mr and Mrs Smith which wasn't always easy to remember. There was one night—Angela was filming in Manchester—when the desk rang through to say that Mrs Smith was on the phone, only for me to reply that I knew no Mrs Smith and to say I wasn't in. Anyway as I moved about the hotel everyone seemed enormously glad I was back. I still had to run the autograph gauntlet but that was little price to pay for a second chance. And I was determined no one at Hibs would regret giving it to me. One thing I'd come to realise: it didn't matter from which end of Princes Street I was looking the views were similar. Except that from the Caledonian end I'd soon come as

Sportsworld Special

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

East throw away the match

HARESH MUNWANI reports from Bombay

THE finals of the Duleep Trophy provided yet another opportunity for Sunil Gavaskar to emphasise his superiority of cricketing talent in the western part of the country. This year, all the trophies symbolising supremacy in the game except the Deodhar Trophy, have been bagged by teams of the West. The latest one, the Duleep Trophy was won by the West but not without a little help from the East Zone who magnanimously dropped 11 catches to give West Zone the crucial first innings lead.

Dilip Doshi, the East Zone skipper won the toss and elected to bat. "I have never believed in putting the other side in. To me it is always an advantage to bat first. Until and unless the conditions are heavily loaded in favour of the bowlers I would always prefer to have first strike. Any wicket is likely to have some initial life but that should not cause concern to a side. You must be capable of batting on all kinds of wickets," said Doshi.

The West Zone captain Sunil Gavaskar, confessed. "It was good to win the toss. The strip looks like a dead batting strip."

The East Zone score was largely built around the second wicket partnership of 173 runs between Pronob Roy and Arun Lal. While Lal scored an attractive 109, Roy fell short of the three figure target by ten runs. Arun Lal said. "It was really comfortable to bat on that strip. I knew that all I had to do was to watch out for Balwinder Sandhu because he was moving the ball both ways. As for Karsan Ghavri he was bowling too short to cause discomfort. I was getting all my shots right. In fact even after getting my hundred I did not feel exhausted and felt that I could go on and on. There was a return catch I offered to Ghavri on the right side which is his wrong side. Ghavri did dive but failed to fasten on to the ball. Actually if he had taken that one it would have been a fantastic catch.

Chasing a total of 327, West were soon in the midst of problems. At one stage they were 6 down for 136. A few of their troubles were due to the turn and variable bounce the bat man had to encounter when taking strike at the club end. Doshi with his nagging length was another cause for concern. But the West with its great depth in batting had hopes in Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri.

Quite a lot of that optimism was based on the butter finger of the East Zone fielders. Vengsarkar was dropped four times while Shastri enjoyed two lives. Both the batsmen went on to record ultimately their tons.

Dilip Vengsarkar said, "The greatest satisfaction I derived from that knock was that I was able to steer my side from a hopeless position to a safe position. On such a tricky wicket I had to alter my technique. As the ball was turning and jumping I decided to wait for the ball and consequently I was playing the ball at the last possible moment. Thus I was allowing for any last minute deviation of the ball. I literally watched the ball on to my bat. From a personal viewpoint it was good to be back among the runs. This season I did not have a big score and this knock should give me confidence. The last time I notched up a hundred in first class cricket was against South Australia last year. It seems a long time back. Coming as it did on the same day that I was appointed captain of the President's XI in the match against the touring Englishmen it really made my day. Those dropped catches never bothered me because all I was concentrating on was that we should cross 327. My own individual score never mattered. I think I got out



Sunil goes for a delivery to Udaybhanu Banerjee

because I played a rather casual shot but that was because I knew I had ensured that the team was safe"

Ravi Shastri scored his first century in a big match. His reaction was: "Initially I was satisfied giving support to Vengsarkar. But after he got out I opened out. This hundred was thoroughly enjoyable. The only time I got a little tense was when I approached the eighties. And I remembered how at Indore in the Irani Trophy I had been unsuccessful to get a hundred. This time I promised myself that it would not happen."

Reviewing the game Dilip Doshi said: "After a great start the middle order batting of our team failed and instead of ending the first day at 280 for 3 we struggled to reach 235 for 5 and finally failed to pile up next day a 400 plus total. That would have helped us to put pressure on the West Zone batting. When we should have been attacking and dictating terms to West we lost the momentum. I know we have an inexperienced side but situations come rarely. To get West Zone at 136 for 6 was a tremendous achievement. But haven't you heard of many a slip between the cup and the lip? So often it has been said catches win matches. Here we missed more than a dozen catches. No side which loses so many chances deserves to win. A lesson our batsmen could learn from West Zone was that they carried on unperturbed despite several lives and didn't lose concentration for a moment. Cricket at the highest level is all pressure and, I am sure, our boys have benefited from this most absorbing game."

Sunil assessed, "I think of the first day my bowlers were really spraying it. But then once we broke through we ensured that they never reached an imposing total. Arun Lal played a nice little innings. For us Dilip and Ravi played a superb innings."

The first innings was completed on the morning of the fourth and the final day. With the issue being settled on the result of the first innings the rest of the game was not taken seriously by the players. You had the situation of Gavaskar and Vengsarkar bowling long hops.

It's high time something was done to make matches more interesting instead of petering out into dreary draws because of that vital first innings lead. The captains and the players have to play a major role in this case also. It is as much their responsibility as it is the Board's.

One other thing that I have learnt is that for the earlier Duleep Trophy match at Nagpur the West Zone selectors had picked 14 players with the instructions that the first eleven will play. This was done without having a look at the wicket. And though the eleven to play in the match were officially announced on the morning of the match as is the routine, the earlier step was nothing short of thrusting the team on the captain. This left the captain, Gavaskar, with no other choice but to play that eleven irrespective of what he felt about the wicket. The West Zone went into that match with just three regular bowlers all of which were left arm bowlers. That West were not pressed hard was partly due to the depth and quality of their batting coupled with the inexperience of the Central Zone players. But, to say the least, it was an undemocratic and retrograde move.

Fortunately this was not repeated for the Duleep Final and West Zone coasted home eventually if not comfortably.

Scores: East Zone 327 (Arun Lal 109, Pronob Roy 90, Sandhu 4-50 and Shastri 4-103) West Zone 431 (Vengsarkar 108, Shastri 134, Randhir Singh 4-147 and Doshi 4-131) Second Innings: East Zone 138 for 5.

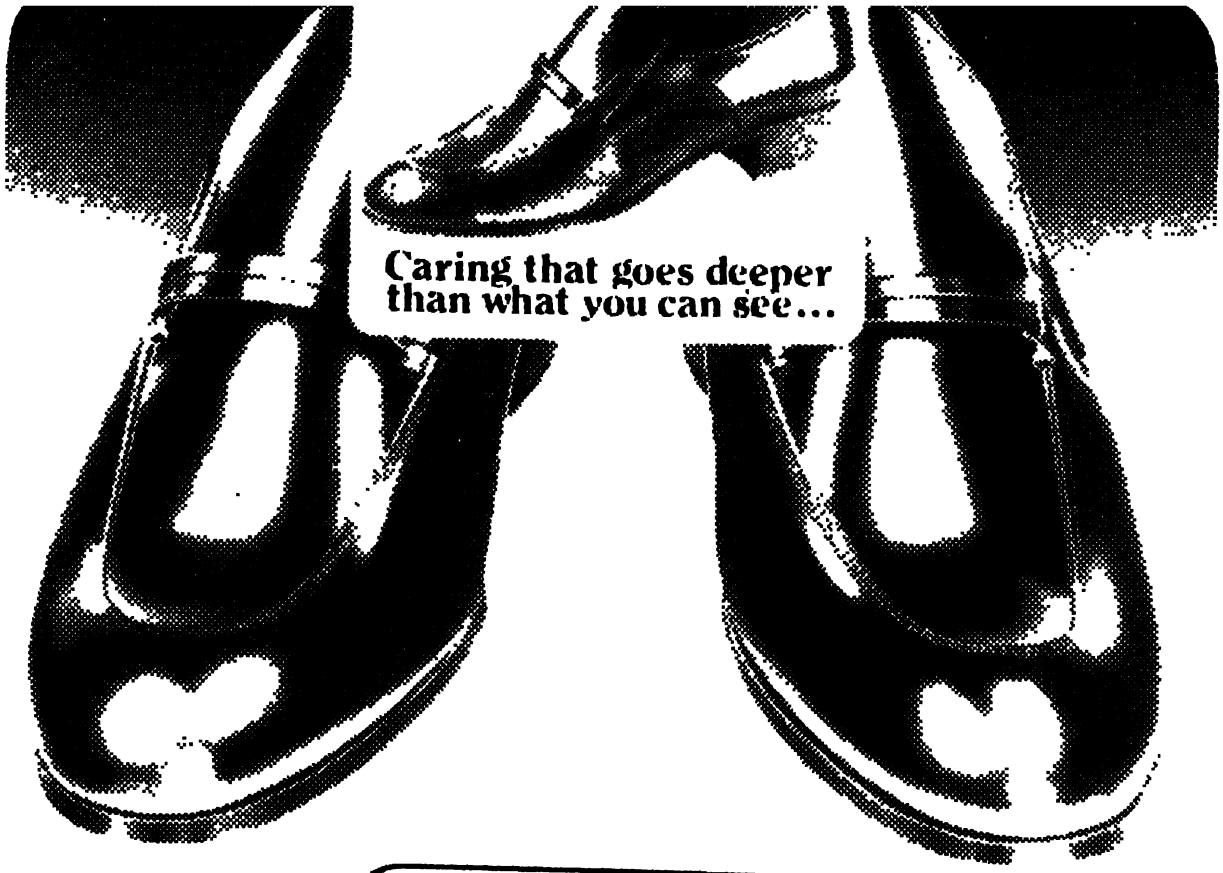


Doshi fights one to Vengsarkar



GOPAL BHAN

Arun Lal cuts Shastri (not in the picture) on his way to century



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SEMI-FINAL I EAST ZONE vs SOUTH ZONE

Spinners reap harvest for East

RAJU MUKHERJEE reports from Cuttack

WHEN Dilip Doshi declared the East Zone 2nd innings at 233 plus eight penalty runs for the loss of seven wickets many a head queried the decision as Pronob Roy was just four runs short of his maiden century in Duleep Trophy. But the skipper had other plans.

To him cricket had always been a man's game with no sentiments attached. If a decision was to benefit the team no individual interest should come in the way. And with this courageous step skipper Doshi led the rejuvenated East Zone team out to field giving his bowlers five hours to get the opposition out.

As Srikkanth and Srinivasan settled down, the South Zone's target of 218 runs appeared within easy reach. The score gradually mounted. However all of a sudden for no apparent reason, the openers became very complacent in picking up runs. At this juncture Arun Jayaprakash the Orissa off spinner gleefully accepted a return catch from Srikkanth (51) with the score just passed 70. Then in a matter of an hour or so the East Zone spinning duo backed up by excellent fielding had the star studded South Zone team at its mercy.

Dilip Doshi true to his reputation bowled an immaculate length and his ability to perplex the batsmen was never in any doubt. From the pavilion end, Arun Jayaprakash maintained the pressure and statistically even exceeded his more famous partner by returning 6 wickets for 38 runs. This was Arun at his very best. The moment he had Gundappa Vishwanath playing on to his wicket the match was as good as over.

It was sheer pleasure to watch the East Zone boys giving their hearts out for the cause. In fact, in this fixture the inept fielding of South Zone especially in the second innings when they were under pressure, raised quite a few eyebrows questioning the authenticity of the reputations that preceded them.

If it was Dilip Doshi and Arun Jayaprakash who drove the last nails in the South Zone coffin, it was the superlative approach of the East Zone batsmen particularly Arun Lal, when they brought back memories of Asif Iqbal's and Javed Miandad's running between the wickets. Following his century in the first innings when he played the sheet anchor's role—Arun was the person who inspired his team mates with some audacious stroke play and fast running between the wickets. His 31 in very quick time in the second knock was a magnificent effort indeed.

In the East Zone side three other cricketers deserve mention. Karan Dubey (20 and 56) gave the innings a solid start in both the outings. His cool temperament and solid defence make him a very tough customer to dislodge. Pronob Roy's effort of 96 not out helped the team immensely in its chase for quick runs. It is unfortunate that after reaching the 80's Roy became strangely subdued, otherwise the well deserved century would have been his in the 12 overs East Zone batted on the last day. The man who deserves kudos for his effort is the rising mediocre fast bowler of Bihar, Randhir Singh. Statistically Randhir was not a success but his great effort to start I by his skipper on the second afternoon deserves our accolade. On a sultry afternoon at Cuttack he bowled no less than 34 overs for his two wickets. When Burman left the scene after four uneventful overs it was Randhir Singh's stamina that gave the spirit to fight back from a deficit of 24 runs.

To go back to the first day. Thirty thousand spectators packed the emerald green of Barabati as Doshi and Vishwanath walked out. The toss favoured East Zone and the obvious choice was made. It was an inauspicious start and rather colourless beginning against a very moderate attack. Pronob Roy's front leg thrust forward is not the best way to combat quick rising deliveries. Karan Dubey was not his usual composed self. Udai Banerjee unusual for him left the crease open. Amol Bharadwaj impressed no other than the purest nor the statistician. And that left only the former Delhi batsmen Arun Lal and left handed Raja Venkat. Minor blemishes apart both batted with the determination and courage one would expect of first class batsmen.

Arun Lal reached his first century in the championship exciting in cover drives and some brisk running between wickets. His tenure of 300 minutes helped to give some respectability to the East Zone innings. Raja Venkat fell off bat and pad after a useful innings of 34 thereby enabling the third wicket partnership to prosper from 38 to 125.

If anything, the South Zone bowling lacked venom. Not that they needed it



Skipper Doshi inspiring his team-mates



Arun Lal pulling Yadav on his way to the century

However, Roger Binny maintained a tidy line and length and deserved his haul of 4 wickets for 55 runs. It would be difficult for any trio to outdo the exploits of Prasanna, Chandrasekhar and Venkataraghavan. But nevertheless the spinning combination of Shivlal Yadav, Narasimha Rao and left-arm orthodox Meher Baba gave nothing away.

South Zone started off without any apparent discomfort although Srikkanth was lucky to survive at 20 when he snicked Randhir to the slips cordon. Srikkanth's adventurous knock of 81 came to an end at 123. Srinivasan and Vishwanath followed almost immediately.

Regarding Vishwanath's dismissal it was unfortunate he was the victim of an error. He was given out caught in the slips when the ball merely caressed only the wicketkeeper's pad. In these days of orchestrated appeals the strongest of nerves have been known to succumb to constant pressure. I can only offer my sympathies to Messrs Gupta and Sundaram. And of course, to the master artist as well.

Vishwanath is finding it difficult to get runs these days. Diverse reasons are being thrown around. But it's time we realised that every great player goes through such a patch. And when the bad patch comes nothing seem to go right for the individual concerned. Even in the second innings Vishwanath played the ball down at his feet and for no particular reason the ball spun back and gently removed one bail. Cricket is not an enjoyable experience all the time.

South Zone at the end of the second day were sitting pretty with 201 for 3 wickets. Vijay Mohanraj and Bitesh Patel batting on 60 and 31 respectively. Next morning, Bitesh, down with fever and chest pain, did not resume his innings. In fact, did not take any further part in the match. This was to cost South Zone dearly in the ultimate stages.

On the third day Dilip Doshi and Randhir Singh kept the South Zone batsmen on a tight leash. None of the later batsmen looked confident although South managed a lead of 24 runs. Dilip's analysis of 44.5.97.8.6 spoke volumes of his stamina and ability.

The South Zone batting in either innings lacked character. In the first innings they failed to consolidate after enjoying an opening stand of 123. In the second knock when a battle of attrition was needed there seemed just no one who could hold the fort. Experienced Test batsmen did not do their reputations any justice. However it must be admitted that the absence of Bitesh Patel made East Zone's task that much simpler.

For the record this is East Zone's third entry in the finals, second time in succession. This defeat is South's first against East. And Arun Lal's five catches in the second innings must surely be a record in the Duleep Trophy championships.

SEMI FINAL II WEST ZONE vs CENTRAL ZONE

Inexperience proves Central's undoing

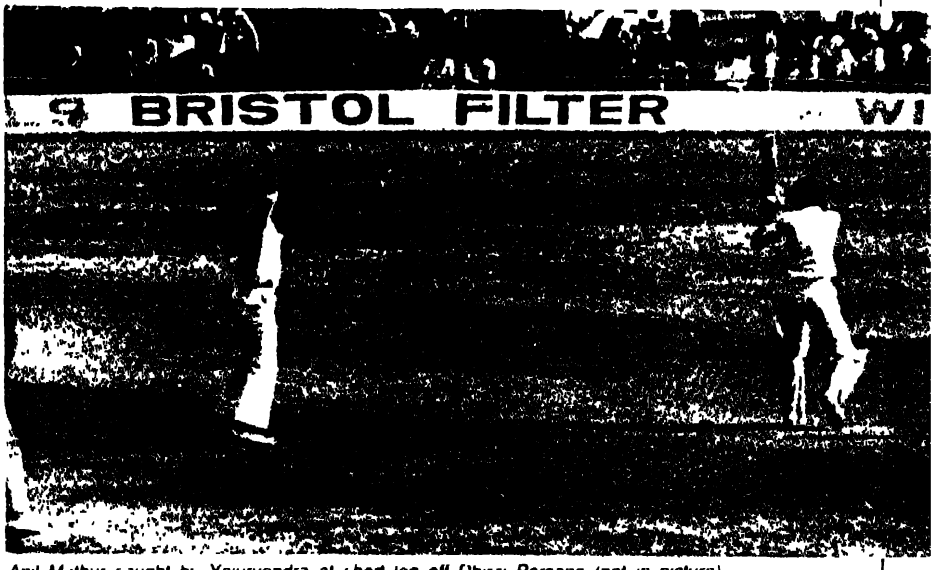
HARESH MUNWANI reports from Nagpur

AFTER having won the Wills Trophy and Irani Trophy, West Zone have forged ahead towards yet another significant achievement as they entered the final of the Duleep Trophy, crushing Central Zone by an innings and 54 runs in the semi-final, held at Nagpur.

It was a rain spoilt event, but not entirely without its charm. However, the cricket fans of Nagpur may have begun to believe that the number 30 is a jinx for them. On September 30, the Wills Trophy match between Bengal and Hyderabad was washed out without a ball having been bowled and exactly a month later rain came down 37 minutes after lunch on the first day of the Duleep Trophy semi final between holders West Zone and Central Zone, ruling out the possibility of any further play. On a wicket that had some grass on it, with conditions favourable to the pacemen, Parthasarathy Sharma won the toss and decided to bat. He felt "It is a good batting track and I did not want to lose the opportunity of having the first knock." West Zone preferred to drop Balwinder Sandhu in favour of a batsman, which meant that they had three left arm bowlers in Ghavri, Dhiraj Parsana and Ravi Shastri. Of course, Sandeep Patil and Ashok Mankad were always there to tackle the exigencies. But Central Zone were not expected to test the West attack fully.

Sanjeeva Rao and Shashi Kant Khandkar faced the new ball attack of Karsan Ghavri and Parsana. In only the fourth over of the innings Dhiraj moved one sharply in. Sanjeeva jabbed down on it and Yajurvendra Singh at short square leg made no mistake. In the last ball of the same over, Parsana induced the new man Sunil Chaturvedi to go for a hook shot. The batsman hit the ball in the air to the left of Ghavri at deep fine leg who dropped a sitter. At 24, Khandkar played forward defensive to Parsana but the ball popped up and Yajurvendra got his hands to it. Parthasarathy Sharma square drove the erratic Ghavri to the boundary. Parsana, meanwhile, needed to be watched carefully. The Saurashtra all rounder scaled Central Zone's fate when he cleanbowled their best batsman and skipper Sharma. "This particular ball which Parsana bowled swung both before and after pitching. I was trying to play it to mid wicket but found that the ball had deviated more than I had made allowance for. It was extremely good bowling", Sharma admitted.

By the time the scoreboard read 39 for three off 12 overs Parsana had broken the back of the Central innings. Revealed Parsana "It was nine months since I opened the bowling and to that extent I was not prepared. It was only the morning of the match that I learnt that I had to bowl with the new ball. It was not that I have not played in the last nine months, but the point I am making, is that I was bowling slower all this time. Today I was able to move the ball both ways to a good degree and may be this is what gave the batsmen much trouble."



Anil Mathur caught by Yajurvendra at short leg off Dhiraj Parsana (not in picture)

Chaturvedi showed a penchant for scoring his runs through the square-leg region. Ghavri came in for his second spell from the same end as Parsana. The West skipper Sunil Gavaskar said, "I put Ghavri from that end because, like Parsana, he is also a left-hander and would be more effective from that end. So after Parsana had bowled nine overs I decided to give him some rest." Sensing Chaturvedi's liking for the on side Ghavri posted three men to take the catch in the event of a mistimed hook. And soon the inexperienced Chaturvedi fell in the trap. Chaturvedi's 24 included four hits to the fence.

At lunch, Central were 81 for four. Vijay Chopra, with a workmanlike 29, and Sanjay Mudkavi were at the crease. On resumption Dhiraj Parsana started bowling his slower stuff and immediately met with success when Mudkavi was snapped up by Vengsarkar. Amil Mathur joined Chopra and the two seemed to give no cause for alarm. Chopra, like Chaturvedi, was seeking runs in the square leg region.

Rain came pouring down when Central were 111 for five and soon ensured that there would be no further play that day. West had every reason to be satisfied with their performance, but with rain intervening Central had cause for optimism, if the wicket was to be affected by water seepage through the covers. "Now when I field at short square leg I stand a yard further away than I used to do earlier, the reason being that those two or three injuries have shaken my confidence. I have a better chance of getting out of the line of a full blooded shot. Besides, my reflexes have slowed down a bit," said Yajurvendra Singh when asked to comment on the two catches he had taken.

On the second day, play commenced only after lunch. This meant that a little less than one day's play had been lost due to rain. There were some wet spots, caused by water seepage, outside the leg stump at the pavilion end. The outfield was soggy and the ball invariably slowed down by the time it approached the boundary.

The Central Zone batsmen appeared to have apprehensions about the behaviour of the wicket. The overnight batsmen Vijay Chopra and Amil Mathur added just three runs when Dhiraj Parsana in his third over had Mathur caught by Yajurvendra Singh. Only five runs later Vijay Chopra swept a delivery from Parsana, but failed to keep the ball down and Ravi Shastri at short square leg made no mistake. Chopra, who was the top scorer with 43, played a lone hand in propping up the Central innings. Ghulam Parker took a difficult catch at deep mid-on to dismiss Ved Raj off Shastri. Immediately afterwards Aslam Ali drove the ball to mid-wicket and Parker darting in from deep mid-on, ran out Aslam at the non striker end finding the batsman looking for a second run. Thus Parkar was responsible for two dismissals in one over.

All through this Gopal Sharma



Ghulam Parker caught behind by Ved Raj off Gopal Sharma (not in picture)

proved that survival on such a wicket was not a problem. Stroke making yes but that was not enough reason to be suspicious of the wicket. Central were bowled out for 144 and Dhiraj Parsana had figures of 7 for 46. He bowled immaculately and did not hesitate to flight the ball. With his ability to move the ball either way Parsana caused terror among the Central batsmen.

Ravi Shastri was able to get appreciable bounce but had to be content with only one wicket.

When West batted, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Ghulam Parkar had no difficulty to face Aslam Ali and Amil Mathur. When the score had reached 40 Gaekwad was caught off the inside edge at short square leg by Chaturvedi off Parthasarathy Sharma.

The West innings was 67 minutes old when Gavaskar replaced Gaekwad. When Sunil was on three Mudkavi at short gully failed to react in time and the bowler to suffer was Hans Gopal Sharma and Ravinder Hans were not able to get the same bite out of the wicket as the West spinners. At 36 Ghulam Parker tried to sweep Gopal Sharma, but the ball deflected from his glove and Ved Raj snapped the chance. Sandeep Patil joined Gavaskar and both batsmen took extreme caution as they negotiated the turning ball not to mention the variable bounce the wicket had. Patil in particular played a subdued innings totally uncharacteristic of his recent reputation as a big hitter. West ended the day at 119 for the loss of two wickets and were just 25 runs behind the Central score. With West having batted right up to number 10, the task for Central was formidable, unless, of course the rain gods were to help them.

THE third day saw Gavaskar and Patil duly completing their half centuries. Patil was out soon after when he was caught by Mathur off Parthasarathy Sharma. Patil's 54 included five boundaries and one six and he was at the crease for a little over two hours. Time and again he used his wrists not for flicks but to keep the ball out of danger.

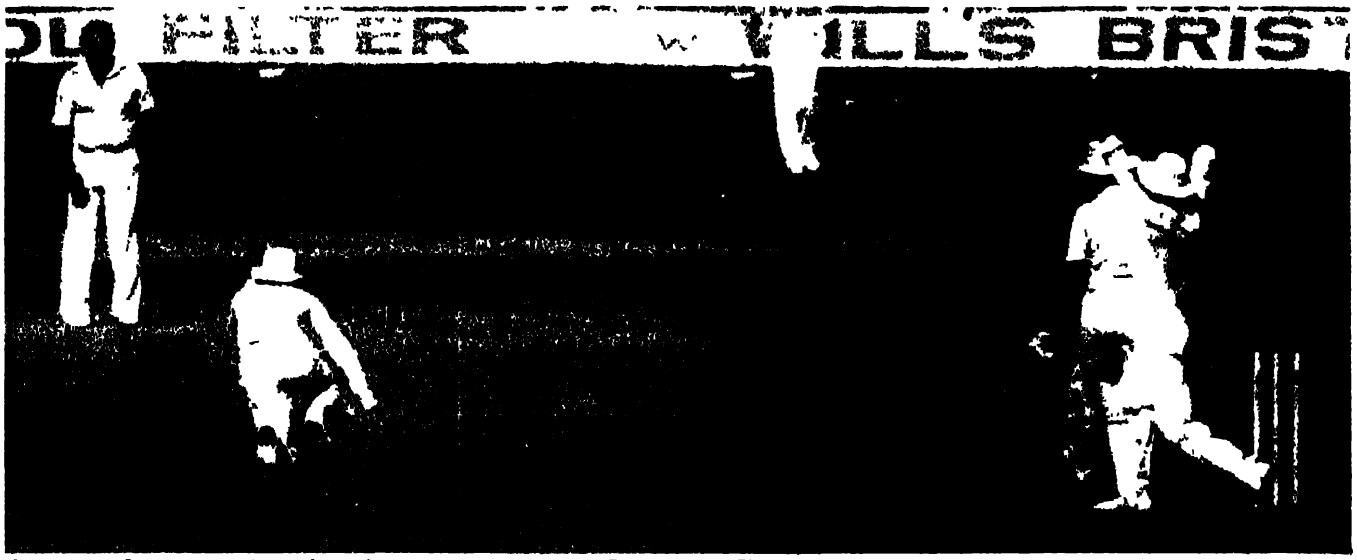
Said Patil: "On this kind of a wicket if I had played my natural game I would never have survived. The ball was turning appreciably not to mention the unpredictable bounce. Vengsarkar replaced Patil at the crease. Gavaskar and Vengsarkar added 70 runs, the latter's share being 26 before he drove Hans straight to Mudkavi's hand at point and attempted a run. Mudkavi's direct throw at the non strikers end found Vengsarkar out of the crease. Ashok Mankad to start off was a bit hesitant when playing the spinners Ravinder Hans and Gopal Sharma, both of whom were bowling much better today than they did the previous day.

Mankad hitted Gopal over the bowlers head for a six but was soon trapped leg before by Hans. Ashok felt: "The ball really kept low and hurried through. I thought I was fortunate to have been given out before the ball first but my left leg which was outside the leg stump and then went on to hit the other leg." Yajurvendra Singh, Ravi Shastri and Ghavri all had a knock but the man who held the innings together as usual was old faithful Sunil Gavaskar. In the last four weeks since the season commenced he has scored a many as seven hundreds. Gavaskar's concentration was amazing and his determination to survive on that wicket was awe one. Never in a hurry Sunil through his long innings showed no signs of fatigue. Except for his hundred in the Irani Trophy I have seen his other three tons and all I can say is that his familiar run hungry traits back after that lean period. Down Under. Every innings seemed to be more or less a continuation of the previous innings.

But unlike other knock this particular hundred had four lives. In the thirties he was dropped by the wicket keeper Ved Raj off Parthasarathy Sharma. At hundred Sunil failed to keep a delivery from Hans close to his Khandkar at short gully flopped the catch. Ved Raj was again the culprit when he failed to take a comfortable catch off Aslam Ali.

Sunil declared the innings at 360 for 7 an hour before close on the third day. His personal contribution was an unbeaten 161 which included 13 fours.

Parthasarathy Sharma (no 1 bowler) my boys did well to restrict the West total. We had allowed the formidable West batting line just two and a half runs an over and mind you after a long innings. We bowled 112 overs. Our poor catching of course let us down, but a few decisions went against us too. It was unfortunate for the batsman to benefit happen to be Gavaskar or Patil, you see. Every deep Patil, before he is removed



Anshuman Gaekwad caught by Sunil Chaturvedi at short leg off Parthasarathy Sharma

on the back foot to thick Hans missed and his leg was in front off the middle stump But the man in the white coat decided otherwise Dilip Vengsarkar when he was on four was caught off the glove at short leg off Hans but was surprisingly given not out Sunil Gavaskar also was caught bowled off Gopal Sharma but was given the benefit of doubt Gavaskar then was in his eighties I am not implying that the batsman should have walked out but if the umpire was awed by the fact that these were reputed Test players it is most unfortunate I am not a crusading motives to the umpires, but I don't think it's too much to expect an umpire at this level not to commit glaring errors The bowlers, thereafter, were dejected All I could tell them was bad luck Gavaskar needless to say, played a tremendous innings The way he made allowances for the odd bounce and the turn was a lesson for us to learn Normally when a batsman is confronted with a ball that pops up his reflex action is to put his hands in front of his face to protect himself and more often than not in doing so he gives a catch But Gavaskar was so restrained that he was able to curb the natural reaction It was obvious that he was concentrating on every ball I just hope my boys have learned from this experience

"On the other hand Sunil Gavaskar was emphatic that he did not play that particular delivery from Gopal Sharma Gavaskar said "I was nearing my 90 when this incident occurred The ball hit my pad and went into the hands of the short leg fielder But I definitely did not touch it I know the umpiring in this match has not been free of error but certainly this umpiring decision was correct

When Central batted the second time Sanjeeva Rao soldiered on but was [illegible] all Central relinquished 9 wickets to [illegible] Chaturvedi and Parthasarathy Sharma [illegible] In four overs Ghavri had the analysis of two wickets for four runs

It was probably Karsan's best spell of the season He was really quick and what is more important, on target The two bouncers he bowled came as a total surprise to the batsmen and zipped through Ghavri said, "I think I am beginning to find my rhythm, in this particular spell my back was bending to the right degree before delivering the ball and also the final leap I did not play much in the last few months When the season began we were immediately playing match after match and quite a lot of them were one day cricket What I really need to do is to practice every day for 45 minutes in the nets but the trouble is that either we are going to a match or coming from one I was satisfied with my bowling today For a fast bowler it is important to get into the right groove

Vijay Chopra did not get to the pitch of the ball in a bid to drive and gave a return catch to Ravi Shastri Parsana switching over to the pavilion end had the mortification of seeing Ashok Mankad at first slip drop Shashikant Khandkar The young lad from Uttar Pradesh had been batting very elegantly

Khandkar who went to England with the under 19 team is a neat player At close he was unbeaten with 26 and got the him company was skipper Sharma Barring the unforeseen, Central at 55 for 3 seemed doomed to defeat

The fourth day provided further evidence not that it was needed - that West Zone were a team of professional cricketers while the Central were comparatively lacking in experience Resuming with the overnight score of 55 for 3 Central lost the remaining wickets in mere 103 minutes to give West convincing victory of an innings and 54 runs

Except Khandkar none of the other batsmen displayed the technique or the control to take up the challenge Karsan Ghavri continued to bowl well [illegible] the wicket helping him the Central batsmen were in for a harrowing time Whatever hopes Sharma and company might have entertained of making it a draw were soon shattered by Ghavri who had skipper Sharma and Test hopeful Sanjeeva Rao caught by Ravi Shastri In fact, the catch that Shastri took to get rid of Sanjeeva was superb And, with Parsana dismissing Khandkar the rest became a mere formality Ravi Shastri mopped up the tail to retain figures of 4 for 32 The catch that Shastri took off his own bowling to dismiss Gopal Sharma highlighted his reflex powers Diving to his right on his follow through his wrong side in goalkeeper fashion Shastri was responsible for yet another dismissal

Central caved in for 154 with Ghavri's analysis being 4 for 54 Sunil Gavaskar said, It was nice to have this win under the belt before going into the final This season we have won the Wills Trophy Irani Trophy and would want to win the Duleep as well

"For me in particular, it was very satisfying to play an innings spanning six hours It has been a long time since I played a big innings On the other hand it was unfortunate that none of our batsmen except Sandeep got going The pity is that all of them got into double figures and seemed set and then got out I think we did extremely well to force them out for a low score in the first innings Parsana bowled intelligently The Central batsmen were confused by his seam bowling Sandeep Patil played a great innings Of the Central players Khandkar was the one to impress He is a clean bat I think if he had moved to either Delhi or Bombay and been exposed to top class cricket it might do him a lot of good", opined the West Zone captain Gavaskar.

The prizes were given by the dealers of Bristol Filter Gavaskar got the Man of the Match and 'Best Batsman' awards Parsana in the bowling department and Ghulam Parkar tied for the 'Best Fielder' prize with Gopal Sharma

I haven't come here to lose

KEITH FLETCHER previews the six-Test series

LET me start by saying that I am delighted to be in India. Last month we were not very sure if the tour was going to come off. But on Friday (October 30) we heard the good news that the tour was on. All the members of the team are absolutely delighted to be here. Since we have come here there has been a tremendous reception. The people we come across have been kind and cordial.

We, the tour committee, have had a couple of meetings with the Board of Control for Cricket in India. I could at once see that the Indian authorities had really worked hard for the tour. The team has had nets. The nets have been a bit damp though they have been good for the first day.

There has been a lot of comments on the fact that we have brought just two spinners. My opinion is that if two bowlers cannot bowl a Test side out, three are not going to do it either. On a tour if there are three spinners they do not get enough bowling. What spinners need are plenty of overs so that by the time the Tests come they are on a spot from the word go.



Raman Subba Row and Keith Fletcher

We have brought along the best two spinners. Derek Underwood is a superb bowler and has already captured 279 Test wickets. He is economical and puts a lot of pressure not only by turning the ball but also by his accuracy. John Emburey has developed over the last few years into a world class spinner. I have not the slightest doubt that they will prove to be menacing in a turning wicket.

Coming to the seamers, Paul Allott has played in just one Test. Allott did well for Lancashire last year. He bowls a good line and length with right control. He is a seam bowler rather than a swing bowler. John Lever is a good swing bowler. We still remember his seven wickets on debut at Delhi against India in 1976. Lever is a better bowler overseas than he is in England. He is a good team man. Easy to get along with and helps team spirit. Also on tour in overseas cricket the ball does not move more in the air than off the wicket and that is why Lever is more successful abroad.

Personally speaking, I would love to see Graham Dilley break through in Test cricket. He is the quickest of the lot. Dilley is a must in the tour party. Because these days quick bowlers win Test matches and also from England's long term point of view, she would require a fast bowler in the next five or six years. I believe Dilley is the man for the job. He could well be the shock of our team. I will love him to do well. He could turn out to be a good bowler and I shall certainly do my best to help him regain his self-confidence. He is also capable of getting runs.

The spearhead of our attack is Bob Willis the vice-captain. He had a great series against Australia and will obviously do well over here. Ian Botham is among the top four cricketers in the world. Greg Chappell, Viv Richards and Dennis Lillee are the other three. Botham is, without any shadow of doubt, the best all rounder in the game. He is a very attacking player. He expects to get something out of every ball. I am a tremendous fitter and gives his everything in the field. He is an exciting batsman too. Botham will certainly play well throughout the forthcoming series. I

The arrival

KEITH FLETCHER's band of English cricketers to tour India for the next three months landed in Bombay at 0030 hours on November 6. Dressed in elegant suits bearing the TCCB emblem the party showed no side effects of their eight-and-a-half hour non-stop-flight from London to Bombay.

All that drama that nearly caused the possible cancellation of the tour seemed to be a thing of the past. Team manager and former Test cricketer Raman Subba Row was absolutely delighted to be in India. "Just the other day, I received a letter from an aunt of mine whom I have never seen. She stays in a place near Guntur in South India. I am hoping to go there if I get the chance. My father came from that region you know," said Subba Row.

Fletcher, who last played in Tests for England four years back in the Centenary Test at Melbourne, has played 52 Tests and has scored 2975 runs for an average of 40 and has scored seven tons. He said: "If there's anything else besides cricket, I would like to do is shooting—ducks and that sort of thing." At 37, it is Fletcher's fourth visit to the country and the third as a member of the official English cricket team.

Ian Botham, the talented and energetic all-rounder, when told that Gavaskar was appointed to lead India, responded approvingly, "It's the right choice."

Coincidentally, Geoff Boycott, who was on a four-week holiday in Hong Kong, arrived a little before his other colleagues in Bombay. Subba Row said: "we felt there was no point in his going back to London and then coming all the way to Bombay. He had permission to come from Hong Kong." On arrival Boycott informed the Board that he would not like to speak to the Press till his manager arrived as all the players had signed a contract that they would not give interviews without the prior permission of the team manager.

The English team is accompanied by 14 journalists and two photographers from Fleet Street. Being newspapermen the first thing they inquired, "Are there any demonstrators outside? Have the police taken precautions? Is there tight security?" It was nothing but curiosity. When there was a negative answer to all their questions they said rather appropriately "achah."

HARESH MUNWANI

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Gum troubles could mean loss of healthy teeth



Dentists say that if teeth are not cleaned properly a thin layer of bacteria called plaque which forms around your teeth and gums starts accumulating This leads to tartar which weakens and pushes away gums causing even healthy teeth to fall out Gum troubles can also harm health in general

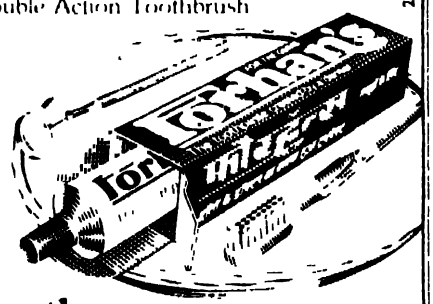
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will allow Ian to bat naturally, just the way he likes it—and let him play as well as he can Taking into account his all round cricketing ability he must be one of the greats

My own personal opinion is that Geoff Boycott has an important role to play in the series He is by far the best technical batsman in the world To be fair to Boycott he is not a destroyer of bowling like Viv Richards As a batsman he could get into any Test side I am looking forward to some long innings from him Graham Gooch is a good attacking batsman He is in the same mould as Viv Richards although not quite in the same class He is one rung lower than the West Indian batsman but Gooch is coming up fast and in two or three years, if he progresses at the same rate as he is doing he will be a class bat The same goes for David Gower Very talented and a top class player

Both Gooch and Gower were unlucky to play the Aussies on fairly indifferent wickets To top it all, the Australians have a good seam attack The wickets seamed and there were some good deliveries I think even Viv Richards or Greg Chappell would have struggled on those wickets last year More often than not Gower and Gooch were getting out to the occasional incredible catches This is cricket But I am certain they will come off on the tour I have always had faith in class I believe in a class player coming right

Chris Tavare is more in the mould of Geoff Boycott Chris is a sound bat He has great powers of concentration He serves to balance the batting Tavare is one of the best slip catchers He is superb at first slip Tavare is one of the best at first slip A very talented cricketer indeed, he has been the mainstay of the Kent batting in the last few seasons

Geoff Cook has been a very effective County opening batsman if I am not mistaken for the last five years He could consider himself slightly unlucky, not to have toured with an England team as yet A sound bat Cook has all the shots as he proved in the NatWest final He is what they call a level headed skipper for the Northants A very sound professional nothing seems to worry him Cook could, in



Geoff Boycott has an important role to play

fact well break through at Test level on this tour

Mike Gatting has played regularly over the last few years He has been consistently getting the fifties and sixties I hope that he breaks this spell and goes on further to score 1 hundred which he does so often for Middlesex A talented player Mike is a good shortleg fielder

SURREY's Jack Richards has been picked because in the selector's mind he was the second best wicketkeeper in England We had to bring the second best 'keeper, simply because in the event of Bob Taylor being injured or falling ill we would need the best man behind the wickets Richards is a useful bat too As a 'keeper he has the bounce, the bubble and the enthusiasm which is very important for a keeper My understanding is that the wicketkeeper is the only player in the team who is selected for his fielding It is a specialist position A wicketkeeper can well lift the bowlers and the fielders as well

Bob Taylor is currently the best keeper in England He is really unlucky not to have figured more often in Tests Bobby came very close to pushing Alan Knott out But the factor that decided the issue in the ultimate analysis was Knott's better batting To me the standards of keeping is the same in both of them If Taylor had been in any other country he would have had already played 60 to 70 Tests

I don't know what I should say about myself except that I



Ian Botham must be one of the greats

have the same role to play as Boycott I provide experience in the middle order Any Test captain will tell you that a batting side must have the proper balance To the aggression of Gooch, Gower, Gatting there will be the contrast of Boycott, Tavare and myself holding one end up, so that the stroke players can make the shots at the other end

Playing spin should not pose many problems All my players are capable of facing the spinners They have the necessary experience I would like to add that the present tour party is better equipped to play than earlier English touring teams Barry Wood, Derek Randall Bob Woolmer and Graham Barlow struggled on the earlier tours of India

Crowds only help a cricketer A professional would prefer to play in front of huge crowds rather to empty stands And nowhere else is this more true than India where you have 60 000 people watching a Test Of course, those of us who have already been to India will pre warn those that are touring this country for the first time as to what to expect and what to do

When Mike Brearley announced that he was not available for any future tours abroad, I knew that I had a chance The Press in England was also mentioning me as a candidate for the job Alec Bedser, chairman of the English selectors, rang me up and asked me if I was interested I said I would be delighted I have always loved touring India and I have enjoyed every minute of my stay here I am fond of the people in this country We are treated far better in this country than anywhere else in the world Just like film stars, anyone and everyone in India will go out of their way to help us

The one essential quality that a captain must possess is the ability to mix with people, with all sorts of people He has got to think of other people as individuals He must be a thinking man and be able to get the best out of everybody Each and every player is a different individual in his own



The full team just before it left England



English cricketer on arrival at Bombay Airport

right. Depending on the individual's personality you have to either push him or encourage him. Obviously a captain should be able to read the game. He should be able to pick out the strength and weaknesses of both his players and those of the opposition. In a game like cricket a lot depends on the strategies worked out by the captain. Very often the difference between victory and defeat revolves round the captain.

On Indian wickets all I have to say is that we have brought along an attack to cope with all conditions. Turn or seam we have the bowlers to exploit those conditions. I honestly believe that our attack has the right balance for going into a Test. It's the best England can boast at the moment. On the previous tour when I played the wickets took spin. But I understand that during the Jubilee Test the wicket in Bombay seamed and offered sufficient bounce to the bowler. So I am prepared for all eventualities.

I am going to play the three day games, the ones spaced out between the Test matches, as proper cricket games and not as glorified nets without nets which is what most touring teams do. I want my bowlers to bowl under proper pressure conditions. I don't want them to run up and bowl at opening batsmen of the other team who have to score 200 runs in the last one hour to win. At the same time I would like to go on record and say that occasionally I might not do it. As far as possible this won't happen. But having said this the point I am trying to make is that it takes two captains to make a good game. If I get the proper cooperation from my counterpart in the Indian team I assure you it will make for a good game.

My memories about the Indian umpires is that they are good. Over the years I have found their decisions fair. There may have been the odd mistake but it has gone both ways. Obviously, English umpires are better than the Indian ones, but the point is that the English umpires are professionals. They stand seven days a week at a cricket match. I am sure if the Indian umpires got the opportunity for doing duty even days a week they would be just as good as the English umpires.

Now to come to that ticklish problem of discussing the prospects. Who will win and more important by what margin? I am confident. In fact I am always confident. I have not come out here to lose. Under Indian conditions in front of Indian crowds it is going to be exciting cricket. I can assure you that I do not think we will win all the Tests but I think it is really titty tatty. But having said that let me remind you that after our 3-1 win over Australia the boys are feeling great.

That does not mean that we do not have respect for the Indians as players. Far from that. Gavaskar is a world class batsman and probably the best opening batsman in the game. Also he is India's confidence. So if we get him out we know we have a chance. In that sense we will be looking to our bowlers to provide us with Gavaskar's wicket as early as possible.

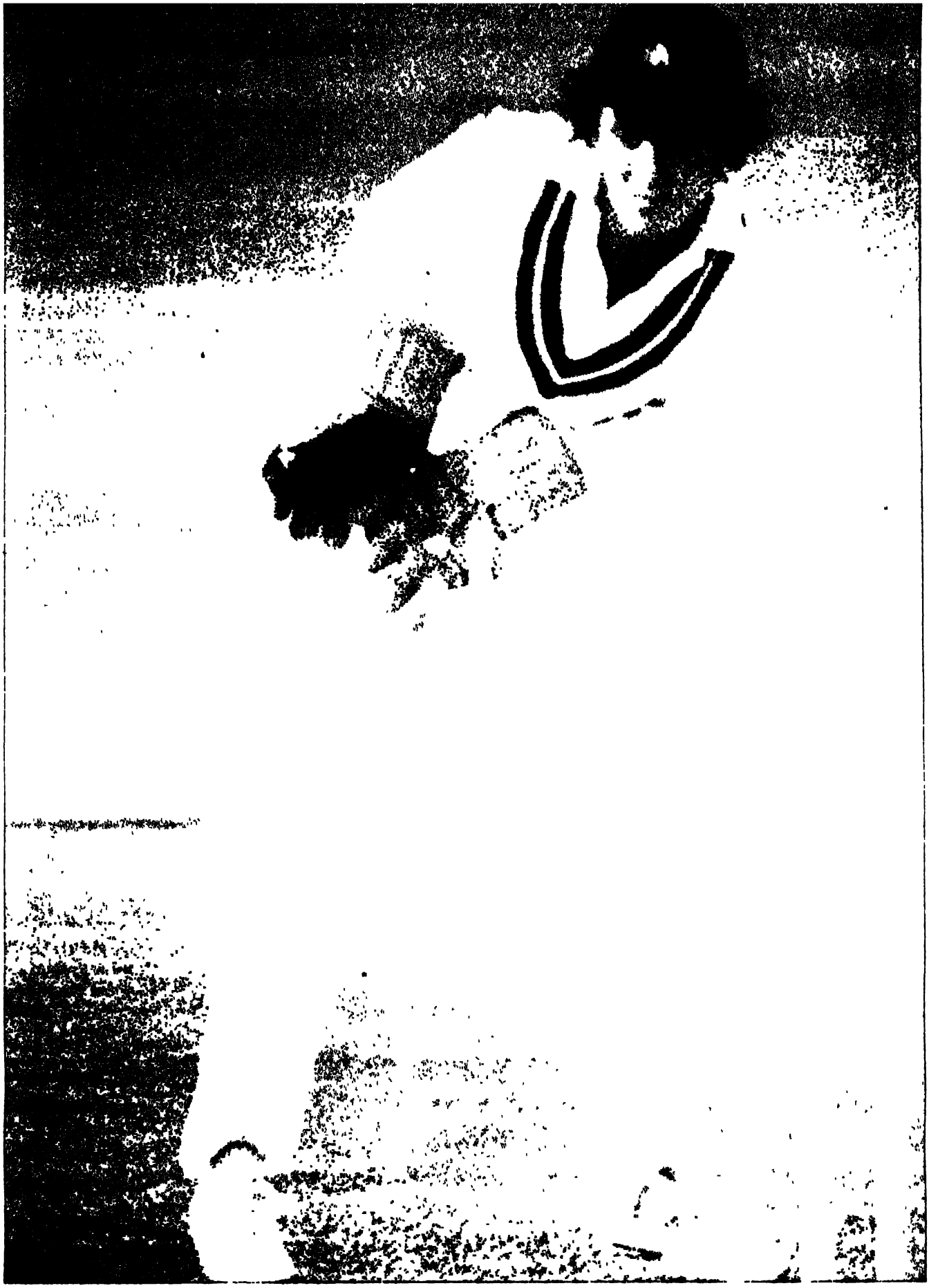
Vishwanath is a nice little player and an extremely nice man. Kapil is a superb bowler. In England in 1979, I think he was thinking more about his bowling and as a result did not do well as a batsman. But he has got the build and is certainly a first class seam bowler. He has won quite a few Tests for India. I would not bracket him in the same class as Lillee and Joel Garner. But he is on the periphery.

India does not have good fast bowlers because of the physique. This is not meant as a criticism but merely as an observation. To be a good fast bowler, you have to have big strong shoulders, a horse like stamina and the height. You know, had Abid Ali been a foot taller, he would have been a great bowler. As it is he was such a good bowler I can well imagine how he could have utilised those 12 inches. A tall boy can really hit the ball into the ground to extract something out of the wicket. If a batsman is short like Gavaskar and Vishwanath it does not make much of a difference. But a fast bowler is certainly more effective if he is tall.

Karsan Ghavri is a very useful cricketer. He can always chip in with a crucial wicket or get a few runs. Dilip Doshi is a good spinner. Obviously India has had the four greats of spin bowling in Bishan Bedi, Prasanna, Venkataraghavan and Chandrasekhar. To be honest to Doshi he is not in the same class. But in the forthcoming series he could well join that illustrious band. Kirmani is a good wicketkeeper. I remember him as a gutsy bat and a good fighter. He is a good man to have in the team.

I am afraid I know very little about the other Indian players because I have not seen them. We have heard a lot about Ravi Shastri based on his performances in England with the under 19 team but we haven't yet seen him.

So here's to an exciting and healthy series.



Scrapbook

JACK RICHARDS

JAMES (JACK) RICHARDS of Surrey, the wicketkeeper without a Test match to his name, is one of the surprises in the England touring party It is not that his name never cropped up in media discussions, but even he was astonished by the news of his inclusion And he put his selection down to the big improvement in his batting, and the hard work he had put in at the nets to accomplish it "I knew if I was ever going to make it for England I would have to bat better," says the Cornishman, who made early 600 runs for his County last season

Born in Penzance on August 10, 1958, Richards is as young as they come these days But with Alan Knott and Bob Taylor still in the running for a Test place, not to mention David Bairstow Geoff Humpage and Paul Downton, his route to the highest level of the game appeared to be all but blocked Yet, the purist had noticed his agility behind the stumps, and the view was aired last summer that he was the best young 'keeper in the country

But England selectorial policy in the past often tending to favour a batsman wicketkeeper rather than a specialist with the gloves It looked as if Richards chance would not come until the old guards had left the scene In 1963 64 for instance, Jim Parks, a more than useful batsman, but not such an outstanding wicketkeeper, was chosen as the first 'keeper under Mike Smith And lately, with the mushrooming of one day fixtures, it has been deemed advisable to lend credence to batting ability in the case of one of the 'keepers

However, India's one-day potential was, perhaps, regarded as not such a significant challenge, and Alec Bedser and his colleagues took the opportunity to give the nod to a man who could one day serve England, and serve for long, as the number one wicketkeeper So, it is a situation where neither men picked to stand behind the stumps in this tour are particularly gifted batsmen, but are unlikely to make many mistakes in their work behind the sticks

To begin with, of course, Richards is expected to play the secondary role Barring injury, it will be surprising if he even gets a break in the one-days, although if England emerge triumphant in the first two limited-overs encounters, the third meeting could provide a windfall for the young Surrey exponent, other than that, Richards will naturally be seen in some of the zonal engagements But one thing is certain if circumstances do thrust him into a Test match, it is most unlikely that he will disgrace himself He anticiaptes well, and gathers cleanly

JOHN LEVER

JOHN KENNETH LEVER did not expect to be chosen for the tour of India in 1976 77 Indeed, he decided against listening to the day's news which would announce the squad. He expected that he would hear someone else's name than his own But selected he was and also proved to be England's leading bowler in that Test series, capturing 19 wickets at 11 4 apiece

But that was not all While in India, he was involved in a bitter controversy connected with his alleged use of vaseline to polish the ball This charge was levelled by the then Indian captain Bishan Bedi in the third Test at Madras, when he virtually accused the man and the England team of cheating Indeed, chemical tests carried out on the ball is said to have revealed an unusual residue of the greasy substance The matter was discussed by the Indian Cricket Board and then conveyed to the Test and County Cricket Board

The Indian media appeared convinced about foul play, but the English journalists solidly sided with their boys And eventually, everything was hushed up. So, the left-arm medium pacer's last visit to India not only characterised an impressive entry into Tests, but also, rightly or wrongly earned him a bit of notoriety Since that tour, however,Lever has not quite lived up to the early promise He has been in and out of the Test side, and never really established himself 1979 was an excellent summer for him, and he spearheaded Essex to victory in the Schweppes County Championship and the Benson and Hedges Cup But when given the "break" in the Lord's Test against the Indians, in conditions quite amenable to movement in the air, if not off the wicket, he made little headway He was brought back into the side for the first Test against the West Indians last year, but again proved the selectors wrong One recalls, he was lofted for six to long on in a most humiliating fashion by Gavaskar in the Jubilee Test

So, if he has been given recognition once more, it is largely due to two factors One, that Chris Old and Mike Hendrick—the two more fancied candidates—are both susceptible to injuries, while Lever is generally fighting fit And two, he has been seen to be at his best under Fletcher, and with this man the captain of the tourists, and probably keen on his County-





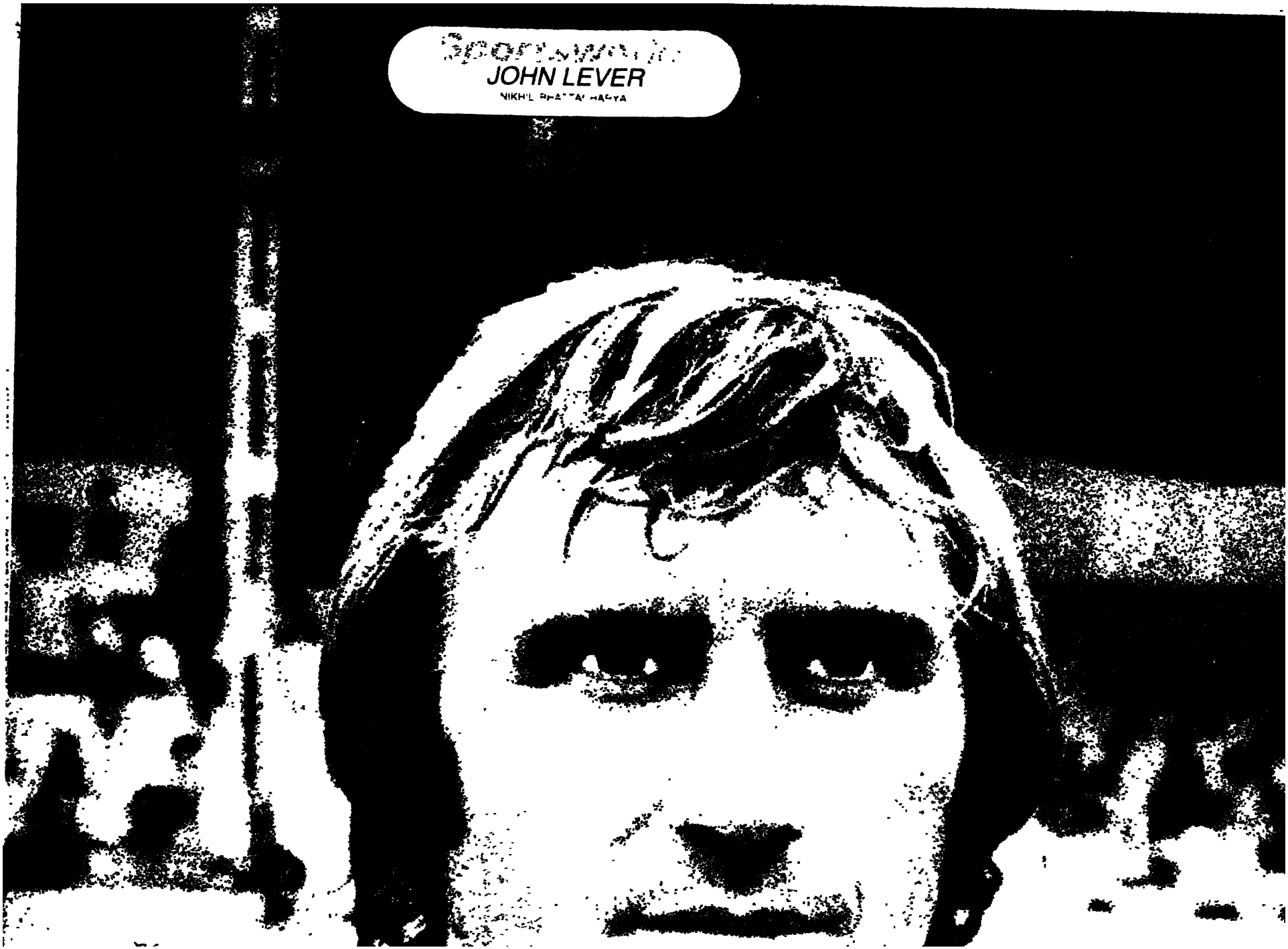
John Lever in action

mate's inclusion it was, perhaps, worth giving him another try

Lever, sandy haired, with freckles on his face, is at best a shade quicker than what Ghavri was a couple of years ago But unlike his Indian counterpart, he has genuine control over swing In fact, he can move the ball both ways, and the early morning winter atmosphere in India, in places like Delhi, Kanpur and Calcutta, could be very much to his liking.

It was fifteen years ago that Lever left Dane's Secondary School in Ilford, Essex in search of a County to employ him There had been little cricket at his school and he bowled mostly for the Ilford Club and the Essex Club and ground It was in 1967, in fact, after Barry Knight had left Essex for Leicestershire, that Lever got his opening

He won his County cap in 1970, and then having put in some hard work on his inswinger, exploded into the Test scene with figures of 10 for 71 at the Feroze Shah Kotla Indeed, "Keith does the watching for you and places the field," he says One of the reasons for Lever's fitness record is that he is naturally athletic He has good rhythm, which is important for any bowler and is always an useful man in the field But in India this time, if he is to substantially consolidate on his tally of 60 victims in Tests at an average of 26 35, he will have to more than maintain a spring in his movements And that means just enough deviation in the air and a bit of luck


JOHN LEVER


RNA

Newsletter from Australia

Team based strictly on present form

THE Australian side for the first Test against the touring Pakistanis was finally announced on November 4 to put an end to weeks of speculation and suspense. The only real surprise was, needless to say, the inclusion of fast bowler Jeff Thomson in the party of twelve, while Greg Chappell finished ahead of Kim Hughes in the captaincy stakes.

There had been some controversy over the post of captain, with the critics divided into two clear camps. Greg Chappell was naturally the favourite for the post of skipper, but Hughes was not without his supporters. Former Australian captain Ian Chappell, who incidentally has his own programme, "Wide World of Sport" on channel nine, argued that his younger brother be given the nod ahead of Hughes as Greg was the only man in Australia capable of doing the job that is expected of the person to lead the national team. In his opinion Chappell was the only choice as Hughes was obviously not cut out for the job.

There had been whispers that Allan Border, who displayed such scintillating form in the Ashes series against England, might emerge as a future Australian captain, but Border himself would not say much on the subject and critics argued that the brilliant young man would produce his best form if left to his own devices, unhampered by the burden of leading a side. Besides, as Border pointed out, the last team he captained was an under 16 side.

Graeme Wood got the nod, despite the fact that there has been a clamour to drop him on two points: his inconsistency and his shocking record of ducks. A recent century, no doubt, helped Wood in this respect and the other regular opener in the side is the reliable Bruce Laird. The latter has been preferred to John Dyson, a relative failure against India last year and who has not shown much promise, despite his maiden ton against England earlier this year.

With two regular openers in the twelve the Australian selectors have however kept their options open by drafting the services of Martin Kent who got runs towards the end of the England tour and who scored 91 against the Pakistanis recently. Kent is a versatile batsman who is capable of opening the innings if required. So the Australian selectors have some room for manoeuvring if needed.

Allan Border chose himself. There was no way the Australians could hope to name a team without him and the chunky little batsman who came within three runs of scoring three successive Test hundreds in England will give his home supporters plenty to cheer about. The last time he played against Pakistan Border got two successive centuries for only one dismissal and will be on the lookout for the same kind of form.

With six specialist batsmen in the side there was obviously no room for young Dirk Wellham despite the fact that he scored a century on debut against England. Wellham's form here in Australia has not provided either the consistency or runs that Australia will be looking for in the weeks to come. He is not out in the wilderness though. Poor form of his colleagues or a recovery of his own form might still see him donning Test colours again, but for the moment Wellham has to remain content with watching his side on television.

Rodney Marsh also chose himself and, if the hefty veteran wicketkeeper finds his touch with the bat, it could prove to be a strong batting line up, no matter how the Pakistanis view the situation. He is still far and away the best gloveman in this country at the moment and has no cause to worry that younger men are knocking at the doors of Test cricket.

Two other certainties for the fast bowling were the brilliant old warhorse Dennis Lillee, on the hunt for Lance Gibbs' record of Test victims, and the sensational young Terry Alderman who grabbed no less than 25 victims in his side's first two Sheffield Shield games. Critics had warned that the Alderman success story in England might well be a flash in the pan and they cited the example of Bob Massie who faded away after his dramatic 16 wicket coup but Alderman proved that he was capable of producing the same results on Australian wickets much to the dismay of opposing batsmen who found his pace and swing too much to handle.

The battle for the third pacemans berth centred around Len Pascoe and Geoff Lawson but latter's six wickets in the last Shield game before the team was announced sealed the issue in his favour. The spinners spot went to the versatile Bruce Yardley who has proved over the years that he can

Lillee (wearing headband) with some of his teammates



cause headaches for opposing Test teams. Whether he will eventually play or not depends on several factors, but the fact remains that he has forced himself back into the national reckoning ahead of Bright and Higgs

There was general delight in cricket



Len Pascoe

ing circles at the comeback of Jeff Thomson, who signed for Middlesex in the last County season, but who had to quit midway for a hernia operation. Thommo appeared on television the night the team was announced to say that he was more elated than surprised since he had been told by Lord's bowling to an old Test man's capful of inches.

ONE fact has emerged with the choice of this team. The Australian selectors have selected a side based strictly on present form. Hence the exclusion of Trevor Chappell, Graham Yallop, Dirk Wellham and John Dyson. They are determined to leave nothing to chance and there could be no better omen for an Australian cricketing revival.

Meanwhile, the controversial fast bowler Len Pascoe ran into trouble with the authorities even as the battle for places in the Test side reached a climax. Pascoe, eager to make a comeback after he missed the Australian tour of England earlier this year, was involved in a rather unsavoury incident with Kim Hughes. In the process the New South Wales fast bowler became the first man in the history of Sheffield Shield cricket to be suspended by his team mates.

It all started when Pascoe sent down a bouncer to Hughes, who was batting on 88 at that stage. The former Australian captain hooked the delivery to the ropes for four runs to take his total to 92, but almost had his head taken off by the next delivery, a savage beamer which whittled his head even as he ducked frantically out of the way and evaded the outstretched hands of wicketkeeper Steve Rixon as it hurtled down the leg side for four byes.

Hughes ran down to the non-striker's end and exchanged words with Pascoe before NSW captain and former Australian hero, Rick McCosker, intervened. Television clips of the incident did not, of course, pick up the exchange of words, but there was a good amount of gesticulating on both sides before Hughes eventually continued his innings.

After the players came off the field, Pascoe is reported to have made his way to the West Australia dressing room and pushed Hughes in the course of an argument. Details about what actually happened in the dressing room are hard if not impossible, to come by, but Hughes lodged a complaint which was rejected by the NSW team. Not to be outdone, Pascoe retaliated saying that Hughes had used abusive language and this charge, in turn, was denied by the WA team.

Ultimately both men appealed and went before Bob Merriman, the co-ordinator of the Australian Cricket Board's cricket committee and also manager of the Hughes led side that toured India two winters ago. Before a decision could be taken by Merriman, however, the NSW team met in Perth and decided to accept the complaint lodged by Hughes, imposing a one match suspension on their fast bowler.

This ban, the first by players under a new code of behaviour, was applicable to the New South Wales versus South Australia match beginning November 6 and Len Pascoe may have to rue his action. There are still plenty of Tests ahead of Australia this season but with Lillee and Alderman displaying excellent form and Geoff Lawson and Michael Whitney pressing their claims in no uncertain manner, Pascoe might just find himself out in the cold.

That however is apart from the fact that it is summer here in Australia.

Macdonald's Cup

NOVEMBER 8 saw the long awaited clash between Queensland and Western Australia in the one-day Macdonald's Cup game. In last year's final the former had defeated the WA side although West Australia had stolen a march on Queensland in the Sheffield Shield final. Thus with honours more or less even, there was obviously a great deal at stake in this game.

Of added interest was the fact that Queensland are currently led by Greg Chappell, while the WA side are skippered by the deposed Australian captain Kim Hughes who is no doubt under some pressure this year. Chappell won the toss and decided to put the West Australians in to bat on the Gabba wicket where the Queenslanders had beaten Tasmania only the day previous.

It was an interesting clash, for Queensland seemed comfortable chasing a total of any size. Besides, Chappell must have wondered what kind of score the Western Australians, who boasted Laird, Wood, Hughes, Serjeant, Marsh and Yardley, would amass. Added to that was the fact that the WA bowling was to be opened by Lillee and Alderman and you have an idea of what the Queenslanders were up against.



Kim Hughes, Greg Chappell's deputy

In Chappell's own words, the Western Australians were perhaps the strongest provincial sides in world cricket, so it must have come as something of a surprise when the first two WA wickets, those of Australian openers Laird and Wood, fell with only 18 runs on the board. Hughes and Serjeant never really got to grips with the attack and it was soon 46 for 4. Marsh and Yardley chanced their arms, but it was all over bar the shouting when the wicketkeeper was bowled by Dymock for a breezy 48. The West Australians had recovered somewhat to 148 for 8 at the end of the allotted 50 overs, but obviously that was not good enough to force a win. Thomson bowled superbly for Queensland and though he finished with only a solitary wicket from his ten overs, the display was one of controlled pace and aggression.

The Queenslanders began well, always keeping ahead of their target of three runs per over and though Lillee soon entered a slanging match with opening bat Kepler Wessels, there was nothing he could do to take a wicket. He did get Greg Chappell later on though, well caught by Bruce Yardley in the slips. But that was all. Border scored the winning runs for Queensland, who finished at 149 for 4.

The 'man of the match' and a very popular one at that was young Rob Kerr who could conceivably be a future Test prospect. Only 20 years old, he came into the Queensland side as a replacement for Martin Kent who failed a fitness test and whose place in the first Test against Pakistan will subsequently be filled by Graham Yallop.

DAVID McMAHON





The stars of the Classic tennis event, recently held at the Netaji Indoor stadium (clockwise from top left) Ivan Lendl , who came out on top, Wojtek Fibak, John Alexander, who finished second, and Eliot Teltscher Colour transparencies by Nikhil Bhattacharya





Little response to tennis 'circus'

On November 3 and 4, a few Calcuttans saw some of the world's leading tennis players ARIJIT SEN reports

BY the looks of things, India is likely to provide the only circus grounds in the world for holiday making superstars of tennis. The first arena was Calcutta. Even before the participants of that circus had flown back to competitive pasture, there was talk of another venue. Probably, Bombay.

The Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta played what was termed the Classic Tennis Event featuring four players of international renown. Although the pickings for the two day event were worth well over $100,000 two of those originally billed to take part did not make it. Vijay Amritraj, a local favourite, and Vitas Gerulaitis pulled out almost at the last minute, forcing the organisers to opt for Ilie Nastase and the near veteran John Alexander. The final line up, besides these two, featured Ivan Lendl and Wojtek Fibak.

One does not know how the Government sanctioned $100,000 and more in foreign exchange for a virtual circus, where it thinks more than twice before allowing expenditure on other sport, either to enable teams to travel abroad or to facilitate invitations to foreigners.

The point to note is that tennis is not a very popular sport in this country while it is certainly one of the most expensive. Being beyond the reach of the average person, it is almost impossible for this game to ever have mass appeal in India. On the other hand several other disciplines which feature far greater participation of the common man are not even the opportunity of importing even basic essentials. Primary disciplines like gymnastics are not making the desired headway because internationally accepted equipment are not allowed into this country on concessional rates of duty.

The misplaced generosity shown to the All India Lawn Tennis Association has emboldened the organisation to plan future whirlwind topovers by the likes of John McEnroe. While this would undoubtedly prove a great opportunity for fans to see the world's



Ivan Lendl plays Fibak



L. BHATTACHARYA

Wojtek Fibak punches a forehand



Eliot Teltscher in action

best players in action, it would still mean that precious foreign exchange is being wasted especially at a time when several sports would be benefited by the import of equipment badly needed for Asian Game preparation. One example will suffice. Indian archers could do with regulation sets of international quality. Instead large amounts of foreign exchange are being wasted like water being poured down a drain.

The AITA obviously has something to make from this kind of circus. Otherwise how can this organisation explain this expenditure? It had tried to organise Grand Prix tournaments in the country. At that time strangely, the Government allowed a $50,000 prize money limit in foreign exchange. After repeated pleas, the amount was hiked to $75,000. But this along with a lot of perquisites thrown in failed to attract the better players. One is certain however that with $100,000 at stake, a regular tournament featuring some of the top players could have been arranged.

Ten international players - with ATP ratings from 10 to 50 - would certainly have been preferable to a lone world No 4. There would not only have been more variety but certainly keener competition than one witnessed at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.

The AITA will, undoubtedly, come

out with the explanation that it is difficult to get players for a Grand Prix like tournament because of the busy world schedule and the greater prize money competitions abroad. But one knows that some of the world's best players do take part in $100,000 competitions even today.

Besides, the AITA secretary happens to be the Hon. President of the Asian Tennis Federation as well. In that capacity—and as a member of the International Lawn Tennis Federation—what is Mr. Dilip Bose doing to further the cause of tennis in this country? If he cannot—through these various channels—exercise any kind of influence, there is no point in his adorning one high office after another.

India's tennis future will certainly not get brighter by the introduction of an annual circus or "tamasha". That's just what the "Classis Tennis Event" turned out to be. The players flew in either on the eve or on the first day of the two day event. They were, naturally feeling the jet lag and this was reflected in the two matches billed for November 3.

Lendl faced Tibak in the first and made short work of the tie. He won in straight sets 6-4, 6-3. Although Tibak showed early promise of a fight, his game fizzled out in the face of the lethal pace set by Lendl.

In the second match 30 year old John Alexander slammed his way to a meeting with Lendl. Thot Feltscher, the jovial 21 year old was obviously not serious and allowed his towering opponent to bustle him from the net. Alexander won 6-2, 6-4.

On the next day again Feltscher ranked No. 11 on the ATP computer gave Tibak fresh life after bulldozing through the first set to win 6-1. The tie breaker in the second set went in favour of Tibak and from then on Feltscher seemed content to just stay on the court till he was defeated. Final scores 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

The fight for first place was keener than expected. In fact, it was the only tie worth seeing. Although Lendl won 6-4, 6-2, the match was certainly well contested. Alexander finally bowed to the superior court craft of Lendl and the youngster's tremendous forehand.

But the players complained about the court. It was not just playing slow, the bounce was uneven, posing unexpected problems to professionals who



John Alexander at full stretch

are used to the best playing conditions around the world. The lights above were also playing a game of their own which was not to the liking of the players. And below the wooden planks were not evenly laid.

What was presented at the Netaji Indoor Stadium was perhaps the biggest farce in recent tennis history. And Calcuttans replied in the most effective manner possible. They ignored the event. Less than 3,000 people sat in the 12,500 capacity stadium on the first. The desperate organisers halved the ticket rates for the following day's programme. Yet half the stadium was empty. Tickets prices ranged from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 which was considered too stiff for a two day, four match event. Maybe better sense will prevail when the next circus comes along. Right now it would be interesting to see the balance sheet. Was the competition a financial flop? Or was the money recovered? Unfortunately the AITA is silent about this aspect of the circus.



Lee Lendl after a powerful forehand

Kabaddi generates more interest

ACHINTYA SAHA

Is the organising committee of the Ninth Asian Games still toying with the idea of having kabaddi as a demonstration game at Delhi next year? It is high time that the hosts of the Asian Games should include the mass based inexpensive sport in the list of events. If India takes the initiative sincerely instead of waiting for the subsequent Asiad hosts to take it upon themselves to popularise the game and make it one of the events of the Games, then only can kabaddi prosper as an international sport. In fact at the moment India has got the opportunity to set the ball rolling. And why not since we are spending an enormous amount include the sport in the Asian Games specially when its inclusion can bring India one or two golds?

KABADDI has already met all the requirements and we fervently hope that the event will be directly contested. If handball can be included why not kabaddi? How many nations in Asia play handball and when India is concerned do we expect a gold in the Asiad? Kabaddi has already six members Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan Sri Lanka, India and Japan. Thailand has applied for membership to the Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation while Malaysia and the Philippines are showing great interest. The AAKF got a shot in the arm with Japan coming into its fold. In fact, Japan's affiliation has all the more strengthened the support of the federation. Being a rich nation and expressing keen enthusiasm, Japan will take much pains to get this sport included. The recent invitation of 41 players (both men and women) and officials to Japan has generated greater interest.

People would be curious as to what was the enthusiasm like there? First of all, Japan has introduced kabaddi both in the primary and junior level schools. Thousands of boys and girls waited anxiously for the Indian squad's arrival for the last couple of months and also prepared themselves to get acquainted with our players. During our 10 day stay the players demonstrated the game in different cities like Togane Sammu, Matsuo Kujukuri, Masaki, Tokigane to name a few. Honestly everywhere they received the players like VIPs with thousands flanking the road and waving the flags of India Bangladesh and Nepal, (officials of the other two nations were also invited).

There we had demonstration matches in which both men and women participated followed by mixed teams and finally exhibition encounters between the two countries. All this was at the school level and those who witnessed the tussles included principals and mayors of the respective schools and cities.



The three who translated the kabaddi rules in Japanese (from left) Yoshida Prof Kazuo Azuma and Ito

Secondly, all the exhibitions and demonstrations were live telecast by three TV companies including the NHK. People may doubt me but no other sport had the privilege of such an extensive coverage—three TV units at a time. It was all the more astounding that NHK took the initiative of covering the entire tour throughout the world under the caption 'International Friendship Through Kabaddi'. Almost all the newspapers in Japan gave wide publicity with numerous pictures. Strangely we do not find such coverage in our country.

Thirdly the kabaddi rules have been translated and published into Japanese. The work was done by professor Kazuo Azuma Yoshida and Ito. A seminar was organised by the AAKF where school teachers, coaches and physical educationists attended with great interest and later appeared for aptitude test.

Each mayor of the city promised that they would stage inter school tournaments regularly and also make it compulsory for the students so that they can build up their body, mind and character. Kabaddi is an ideal sport for the development of these qualities. The Japanese have a strong feeling that kabaddi has a close relation to yoga. This is the main reason why they have taken more interest. Putting it simply, the Japanese like action and believe in body contact games like karate, judo and kabaddi.

How good are the Japanese? Will they emerge as a force to be reckoned with in the arena of kabaddi? Kabaddi circles and the public in general must be thinking on these lines. In my opinion and experience, they will certainly come to the forefront. Why?

One of the Indian players teaching the Japanese boys



Because each and every Japanese boy and girl has the strength, stamina and strong determination which are the basic fundamentals required to gain proficiency in the game Then again, they have a natural ability to grasp the skill and technique Over and above they began to love the game as each and every movement was full of thrill and excitement They have also shown how good they can be both in the offence and self defence The way they have taken to the game shows that they will emerge as a tremendous force within two years

Curious again as to how was the tour possible? There was one man who was responsible for the tour being materialised It was Mr Shoji Havano, the Mayor of Togane City and the President of the Japan Amateur kabaddi Federation Frankly speaking, the entire credit goes to this 55-year old businessman for his keen interest and imagination to introduce kabaddi in Japan This gentleman is a born sportsman and this is borne out by the fact that he is fifth Dan in karate His contribution towards sport in general in the country is praiseworthy

It may be recalled that two years back the AAKF sent a coach in Prof M I Sunder Ram to teach the game to the students of Togane The mayor there instantaneously took a liking for the game and later on he organised a tournament in 1979 The tour was possible because of a series of correspondence with him by me He has spent several million yens for this purpose I think it's stupendous, considering a game like kabaddi Then again, the warm hospitality and personal touch will ever be remembered by each and every member of the contingent Mr Havano said in the farewell reception party "I have introduced kabaddi not only in Togane city but also throughout Japan through TV radio, newspapers and video It is my firm belief that this game will be liked by the Japanese students day by day Through this game we shall be in a position to strengthen the ties of friendship among the kabaddi family I would like to see that kabaddi should not only be recognised by the Asian Games Federation but also by the IOC in the near future Mr Havano's gesture was genuine because he took us to the Vice Minister of Education Mr Ryuzo Ishiba who told the Secretary General of the Japan Olympic Committee to support the game There is pressure in whatever they say and do They want to see the game included in the Asiad list For this they will go to the whole hog And at the moment the are endeavouring to participate in the ensuing Asian kabaddi Championship to Dacca in December



The author handing to Mr Havano mayor of Togane city

The squad then flew to Thailand where their association had a meeting with the secretary general of the Thailand Olympic Committee The Thai official have promised full support Our players gave demonstration at Bangkok's National Stadium It created a lot of enthusiasm although the game is played there in the name of 'tee chab' One of Bangkok leading daily *The Nation* stated that the game has a great future It may be noted that the Press conference attracted 31 newspaper representative

The Malaysians too expressed their enthusiasm when our players gave demonstration at Penang The Penang Sport Council took the initiative and had also asked Mr Ruslan Idrus Honorary Secretary of the Malaysia Amateur Boxing Association to form immediately the kabaddi association Kabaddi is played in that country but not in an organised way But it is most likely that with the help of Mr Idrus the game will be established shortly I also got the opportunity of meeting the Information Minister Mr Y B Dato who said that they would support India to get the game included in the Asian Games

Indian players demonstrating at Bangkok's National Stadium



Obituary

Kittu—a lovable character

CHUNI GOSWAMI remembers with nostalgia J. Kittu, who voluntarily provided an opportunity to him to play as an inside forward and become a legendary figure

THE Bengal football team, which played in the Santosh Trophy in the year 1955, was crowded with too many inside forwards while having no positive left winger. Those were the days when every football team used to adopt 'five forwards system'. At that time there were plenty of inside forwards in Calcutta, and Ahmed Khan and Sattar, the two highly established inside forwards, were already there in the Bengal team. We were absolutely sure that Jagannath Kittu, a newcomer to East Bengal from Madras that year, would be the automatic choice for the place of third inside forward in the team. Since there was no reasonably good left winger, the Bengal team appeared to be unbalanced and lopsided with too many talented forwards vying for the place of inside berth.

Just at that time Kittu came out with a novel suggestion that he would be "pleased to serve" his new State Bengal by playing as a left winger. Here was the magnanimity of a reputed player unseen before. In fact, it was not at all necessary for him to withdraw himself from his usual position as he achieved grand success in his very first appearance for East Bengal Club in Calcutta by his immaculate ball control and deft passing. Actually



Jagannath Kittu

it was the rare quality of generosity which made him take that decision. Kittu's self exile also afforded me an opportunity to come into the reckoning as a reserve forward for the Bengal team, and for this I shall remain grateful to him. Later, as Sattar withdrew himself from the team at the last moment, I got myself in the final XI with Ahmed Khan and Kittu as my left in and left out respectively. And what could be better for an youngster like me than to have the support and encouragement from two great ball players like Ahmed Khan and Kittu?

Kittu was the worthy successor to Ahmed Khan in the East Bengal Club. This plumpy and pleasant boy of Tanjore, Madras had had brilliant success in his maiden appearance in the 1952 National championship in Bangalore when he represented Madras State team. He became the darling of the crowd and was rightly given the 'Man of the Tournament' award. Short and stockily built, Kittu had fine control over ball and could use both feet with consummate ease. He was an extraordinarily fast player and could with his uncanny sense of ball play and anticipation 'lox' and catch the defenders often in wrong foot.

The most important characteristic of Kittu's play was his art of passing whether long or short, and to have Kittu in the 'wall passing' one could surely get the ball in right position even with closed eyes. Although he himself was not a great shooter, any striker in today's system would also have loved to receive the set pieces of Kittu.

Kittu was a fine gentleman and his sense of humour was as pleasing as his dexterity in the game. His nonchalant and relaxed attitude even prior to a big match kept the atmosphere of the dressing room cool. His love for betel (pan) was also well known. He was frequently seen at a later stage, to come out in a match chewing pan'. We were amused at the sight and asked Kittuda "Why do you take pan before a match?" Prompt came the reply with a touch of humour "Why do you take chewing gum? Your chewing gum and my pan do the same trick."

The sudden and premature death of this versatile player has caused an irreparable loss to the Indian football, as he dedicated his entire life for the cause of Indian football. Only recently, he joined the Indian football team for the Merdeka Tournament in the capacity of a member of the 'technical committee'. I am sure that the present footballers, who are now preparing themselves for the forthcoming Asian Games, would miss him as much as we, the contemporaries would do.



Kittu giving his last advice to the Indian players selected for the Asiad coaching camp

INDIAN TEAM TO BANGKOK

Not the best side

PRIOR to the Indian team's departure for Bangkok to participate in the King's Cup tournament, India's chief coach P K Banerjee said, "We hope to play well in the tournament In the last two months, India have played 13 international matches during the three foreign trips and, naturally, these engagements have taken their toll on our players But we know that this is an important tournament and we have to try our best to achieve something significant But, we are starting with a disadvantage as we are not in a position to take the best side due to the injury of some of our leading players"

The reference is obviously to Xavier Pius, Mihir Bose, Parminder Singh and Monoranjan Bhattacharya All of them were in the team that participated in the Merdeka and Pyongyang tournament Except Parminder, the other four were also members of the team that played two exhibition matches against the United Arab Emirates Parminder has been on the injury list from the beginning of the camp that took place before the team left for Bangkok The rest had attended the camp, but in vain

The team that will be representing India at the King's Cup comprises Bhaskar Ganguly Shibaji Banerjee Compton Dutta, Shyamal Banerjee Aloke Mukherjee, Subrata Bhattacharya, G S Parmar Alim Khan, Prasanta Banerjee, Prasun Banerjee, Fareed, Ashok Tadke, Manash Bhattacharya, Bidesh Bose Kartick Sett, Shabbir Ali and Harjinder Singh

It seems to be a fairly balanced side, at least on paper But, as P K Banerjee has said, "We will surely miss the services of the injured players"

Without doubt, Bhaskar is the best custodian we have in India But the inclusion of Shibaji as his deputy is rather surprising Shivaji is no longer young and has left his best days behind All along, the All India Football Federation selectors chose to ignore him He was not called up in the initial camps but only at Bombay, where he performed creditably

During the last three foreign tours, Atanu Bhattacharya of the Indian Railways was in the team as Bhaskar's deputy He is young and, if given proper opportunity, might become a good custodian in future With the Asian Games in the offing, a young goalkeeper should be groomed for the Indian team One cannot expect Shibaji to maintain his reflexes for long But then, Shibaji has been ignored in the past and, perhaps, in this first international outing may get the chance of representing India, which he deserved a long ago

The team will miss the service of Monoranjan, who had been the backbone of the defence in the last three trips abroad Parmar was his partner in the Merdeka and at Pyongyang And for the reason P K Banerjee had been able to use Subrata as a defence screen, who at times went into the attack in the latter tournament But, at Bangkok, Subrata will be back in his original position, along with Parmar, as a stopper

Compton also can be sure of his place in the team He is now an improved player and with his robust approach and ability to overlap has become indispensable for the team Aloke, who was in the team to UAE, also performed creditably and has been justly rewarded He is a young player and will serve the country for some time This year, playing for a big club (Mohammedan Sporting) for the first time Aloke showed great promise throughout the League On the other hand, Alim has the added advantage of being able to play as a linkman, as was evident in the second match against UAE



Compton Dutta before his departure for Bangkok—sure of his place in the side

The determined and hard working Mihir Bose will also be missed in the vital half line He played well at Merdeka, Pyongyang and also against UAE His resoluteness was proved during the tour of UAE Though he was injured in the first match and had to leave the field, he came back in the second encounter, but unfortunately, only to leave the field once again For Ashok Tadke this will be his debut at the international arena Both Prasun and Prasanta played well in the past tournaments and will perhaps be assisted by Fareed, who shone in his first international outing against the UAE

Xavier Pius' ability in creating opportunities even against the tide of the matches will not be there at Bangkok So, the responsibility of scheming will be all the more on Harjinder who had performed brilliantly both at Kuala Lumpur and Pyongyang Sometimes he was used as a linkman and P K Banerjee may repeat his ploy Shabbir, the captain of the side, must sharpen his marksmanship if India has to do well, and the two speedy wingers, Manash and Bidesh must also rise to the occasion Kartick has been taken, perhaps as a substitute but he might come in handy when tried But the forwards must utilise the opportunities that will come their way if they intend to do a good job for their country

This lack of finish was evident both at Merdeka and Pyongyang and proved India's undoing against the junior UAE team "We had missed as many as seven openings in that match and no team can expect to win after that," P K Banerjee said about the match Incidentally, it was the first time that the UAE defeated an Indian team In spite of maintaining territorial supremacy for the major part of the encounter, India lost 0-2 both goals coming against the run of play In the second match of the tour against the senior UAE, India lost 1-3 after Narendra Gurung had taken India into the lead

After the moderately good performances at the Merdeka and Pyongyang tournaments, the UAE trip proved a disaster Let us hope India will perform well at the King's Cup and will be able to erase the memory of the UAE tour

SARAJIT DEB, Calcutta

JUNIOR NATIONAL FOOTBALL

Bengal and Railways emerge joint winners

THE 19th Junior National Football Championship (JNFC) commenced at Agartala, the capital of Tripura, on October 11, 1981, with 19 teams participating in it. It is the second time after 1978 that Tripura had the opportunity to become a host for the JNFC. The teams that participated in the championship—Assam, Andhra Pradesh Bengal, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Railways, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh- were divided into four pools for the cluster matches. Tripura, Railways, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were placed in pool "A", while Maharashtra, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh were in pool "B". Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Andhra and Orissa were segregated in pool "C", and Kerala, Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and J & K were placed in pool "D".

The size of the crowd this time was double than what it was in 1978, obviously indicating that interest in football is tremendous in this isolated border State. Excepting one or two minor incidents the crowd was, by and large, co-operative and peaceful. Though they had some soft corner for Bengal and the home team, they applauded commendable performance of any team. At the same time, they also did not hesitate to deplore the demerits of any team. Undoubtedly this non partisan attitude of the crowd encouraged the participating teams.

Railways have emerged as a new force in the Junior National Football Championship (Dr B. C. Roy Trophy). Railways which entered final for the first time this year became joint winner with Bengal as the final ended in a goal less draw. The last 14 minutes of the match saw exciting football as the goalkeepers of both sides were under pressure. Both the teams adopted the 4-2-4 system. Bengal missed two easy chances—the first at 27th minute of the second half when a combined attack by Rupak Guha, Subhashis Roy and Pradip Sengupta was foiled and the other at 34th minute when a Dipankar Choudhury shot in the penalty box missed the target.

Usually in case of a draw in the final, both the teams are given another chance for an outright result of the match. But this year this usual practice was not followed. The coaches of Bengal and Railways agreed for a toss. According to the decision of the coin Bengal will keep the trophy for the first six months and Railways for the next six months.

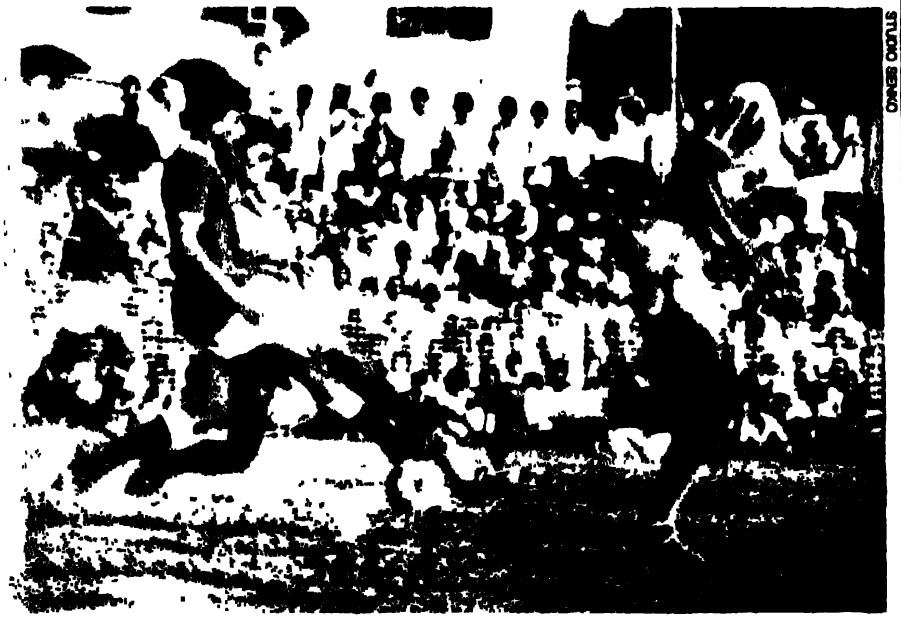
Bengal-Tripura: Beating Tripura 2-1 in the double-leg semi-final (1-1 in the first leg and 1-0 in the second leg) the mighty Bengal, which so far played in the finals for nine times and became champion for eight times, were again elevated to final this year. In the first semi-final Tripura went into the lead as their right-striker Krishna Sarkar snatched away the ball in the twinkling of an eye from Bengal's left-stopper Subrata Bhattacharjee and passed to the left-striker Krishna Kumar Sinha, who wasted no time in scoring. Tripura maintained the lead for ten minutes only in this prestigious battle, Bengal getting the equaliser through their striker Dipankar Choudhury. The second semi-final was a prestigious fight for Bengal while for Tripura, it was the last chance to make their way into the final for the first time. Bengal went into the lead at the 75th minute. The man who prevented Bengal from increasing their margin was Tripura's goalkeeper Gautam Roy Barman, who saved his team at least on five occasions. Further Tripura's left-stopper Dhabal Deb Barma also posed problems to Bengal's forwards.

Railways vs Kerala. The formidable Railways which defeated last year's champion Goa 2-0 in the quarter-final, entered the final after beating last year's runners-up Kerala 2-0 in the semi-final. In the first leg semi final Kerala lost to Railways 0-2, thus making it easy for Railways to enter the final. Though Kerala reigned supreme in the first half of the first leg match, Railways played well in the second half scoring through the left winger Utpal Mandal and the right striker Gautam Dutta. The second leg match produced no result. Both teams played disorganised football barring Kerala's desperate attempts to score goals in the second half. Railways' tactics of wasting time was understandable. Railways' right stopper Raghu Nandy proved to be an insurmountable hurdle before the Kerala forwards. Even then Kerala had earned two chances which were ultimately foiled by Tripura's custodian Tarun Dutta.

Tripura. The opening match of the tournament held out great promise and hope for the host State as Tripura won that match defeating Himachal Pradesh 3-0. Two of these three goals were scored before the half time and the third one after the interval. The home team in their second match defeated Haryana by three goals to one. Tripura then won their third encounter against Railways by a solitary goal being scored by their left striker Krishna Kumar Sinha. With home team playing a balanced side, it was obviously an exciting match. At the 8th minute in the first half Krishna scored the victorious goal. In spite of all their efforts Railways could not score any goal. Tripura, obtaining six points—highest in the pool "A"—qualified to play in the quarter final. In the quarter final, Tripura beat Punjab by a spectacular goal and entered semi final. This crucial semi final match thrilled the crowd and won great applause from them.

Railways. Railways, another team of pool "A", played neat and purposeful football, defeating the weak Himachal Pradesh by 13 goals to nil. This was incidentally the highest number of goals scored by a team in cluster and quarter-final matches. It was the left striker Pranab Basu of Railways who scored six goals in this match. He also

Bengal's left out Rabin Mandal and Railway's right-half Sanjib Chakraborty in a tense moment during the final



scored the first "hat trick" of the tournament in this match. Yet it was a matter of sadness as the formidable Railways could not repeat their earlier performance when they beat the mediocre Haryana by two goals to nil. Railways were trounced by the host Tripura 0-1. With four points Railways stood next to Tripura in the same pool and entered the quarter final.

Maharashtra: Maharashtra won its first match against Tamil Nadu by two goals to one. But it could not cope with the strong Assam side and were beaten 0-3. The determination of lanky Abdul Azam Laskar, the left stopper of Assam, frustrated all the attempts of the Maharashtra forwards. Maharashtra paved their way to quarter final by defeating Uttar Pradesh 2-0. Maharashtra thus earned four points from the cluster matches.

Assam: Assam followed Maharashtra in pool 'B' and entered quarter final by earning three points, though they were defeated by Tamil Nadu 1-2 in another match. Assam improved their position with the win over Maharashtra by 3-0. In fact, a goalless draw with Uttar Pradesh was the modus operandi for Assam's successful entry into the quarter final.

Goa: The victory of Goa, last year's champion, against Punjab was almost certain from the very beginning. Goa entered Punjab Goa's left half Maurice Alfonso caught the admiration of the crowd. Goa won their first match 6-0 and also won the second match against Orissa 3-0. It was the match for Goa's right striker Xavier Andrew who achieved a 'hat trick' for Goa's second one in the cluster matches. The first 'hat trick' was made by captain Pranab Basu of Railways. Winner of two earlier matches, Goa further consolidated their position by defeating Andhra 2-0. The last team which Goa met in the cluster matches was Manipur. Manipur played fairly well against Goa and the result of the match was 1-1. With seven points Goa was the top team of pool 'C' to enter quarter final. But Goa did not know that ill luck was awaiting them as they were defeated by Railways 0-2 in the quarter final. It may be recalled that at Ernakulam last year Railways were defeated by Goa in the first leg by 3-0 and in the second by 2-1. The match between Goa and Railways was considered to be the best in the quarter finals. Pressing Goa with constant attack, Railways scored the first goal at the 18th minute in the first half through left striker Pranab Basu. In the second half too, Railways maintained their pressure against Goa. Within eight minutes in the second half, Railways had four corner shots. The second goal was scored at the 23rd minute in the second half by left striker Gautam Dutta.

Punjab: The progress of Punjab which entered quarter final with five points - second in pool 'C' - was checked by Tripura. However, the third "hat trick" of the tournament was recorded by the right striker Gurpalchand of Punjab in the match against Orissa. Punjab which had first entered quarter final three years ago in Agartala, defeated Manipur 1-0. Unnerved by their defeat against Goa, Punjab defeated Orissa 7-1. The match between Punjab and Andhra ended blank.

Kerala: Quite obviously everybody's attention was focussed on last year's runners-up Kerala. In their first match, Kerala easily trounced Rajasthan 3-0. In their second match against Bihar, Kerala maintained its progress through a 2-0 win. For Bihar it was their second defeat in the four matches they played so far. Facing some initial resistance from Madhya Pradesh, Kerala won the match 3-1. Kerala defeated Jammu & Kashmir 6-1. Tajmul Hassan of J & K was able to score a goal. The match between Bengal - eight times champion- and Kerala - last year's runners-up - ended in a goalless draw. However defeating Assam in the quarter final Kerala already entered semi-final. They obtained nine points, highest among all the teams in the cluster matches.

Bengal: With immense sympathy and support of the Tripura crowd, Bengal entered quarter final with seven points in the league group and then semi-final defeating Maharashtra 3-0. In the cluster matches, Bengal defeated J & K 3-0, Bihar 1-0 and Madhya Pradesh 4-0. Their encounter against Kerala resulted in a goalless draw. But it is really lamentable that Bengal were defeated by the mediocre Rajasthan 0-1. To increase their strength Bengal had to bring three additional boys from Calcutta. They were Robin Mandal, Sadhan Ghosh and Subrata Bhowmik. In the Bengal team, Rupak Guha and Dipankar Choudhury in the forward line and Robin Mandal in defence put up good performances.



Railways left-striker Pranab Bose trying to dribble Sibnath Dutta, the right-half of Bengal, in the final

Every match was seen on the average by nine to ten thousand spectators including the pass holders although the stadium could accommodate 7,500 people. To maintain law and order and keep the crowd under control the authority restricted the sale of tickets this year. Permission was to be obtained from the IG of Police in case more tickets were to be sold under special circumstances. The IG was approached once, but the request was summarily rejected. To avoid possible forgery, tickets were printed at the State Government Printing Press. There were 6,500 season card holders and 1,000 tickets on an average were daily sold at the counter.

Enthusiasm and interest of the football fans created a lot of problems for the organisers. Some of the key men remained underground for several hours on each day just to avoid increasing requests for tickets. The observer of the All India Football Federation realised that the present trend suggests the need for a public stadium, accommodating at least 20,000 spectators. In the absence of a stadium, the tournament had to be arranged as on other occasions, at the Umakanta Academy (school) Stadium. The State Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1.16 lakh to develop and maintain the school stadium immediately before the tournament. A further sum of Rs. 10,000 was also given as a grant to the organising committee to meet the capital expenditure. The total outlay of the project is estimated at Rs. 2.20 lakhs.

As most of the colleges, schools and hostels of Agartala accommodated the visiting teams, the Puja vacation of the educational institutions of the town had to be extended by a week. To conduct the tournament a 130 member organising committee was formed with State Education Minister, Mr. Dasarath Deb as its Chairman.

AMIYA DEB ROY, Agartala

RETIREMENT AFTERMATH

Gurdev Singh: I was wronged

GURDEV SINGH, one of the front-ranking footballers of the country, tells SUJEET MOHANTY how he fell victim to a conspiracy hatched against him by some of the East Bengal Club officials

IN, perhaps, his last interview before quitting first class football, Arjuna Award winner and ex-India captain, Gurdev Singh, told *Sportsworld* with a heavy heart "Let me disclose that I have decided to hang up my boots after the completion of the Nai Dunia football tournament at Indore I am sorry to state that though I was not quite out of form, the East Bengal Club, Calcutta, crushed all my enthusiasm by playing dirty tricks on me while I played sincerely for them in 1979 80" When asked to elaborate, Gurdev Singh said, "I fought with my own State (Punjab) in the High Court and won the case in April 1978 just to play for East Bengal, and thus incurred the displeasure of my own State In the 1979 Calcutta League I played exceptionally well against Mohun Bagan and we managed to draw with them After the match the great Mohun Bagan coach, P.K Banerjee, remarked that but for me his team would have won the match But, unfortunately, we couldn't win the League because I couldn't play against Mohammedan Sporting due to my back injury and once again the match was drawn When Mohun Bagan beat the Sporting we were only one point behind the former in the running for the League title Then started the politics of the East Bengal officials and players against me Paresh Saha, the then East Bengal football secretary, along with Surajit Sengupta, Shabbir Ali, captain Prasanto Banerjee and Bhaskar Ganguly, formed a group and started a move for the inclusion of Shyamal as a stopper in my place"

"But the other East Bengal officials felt that I was better than Shyamal, though I never thought so, because he was a world class stopper Tension gradually increased and soon I found coach Arun Ghosh join the fray He kept me out of the team for two matches The result was that the defence proved very weak and the public demanded my inclusion After this, I was not dropped and in the semi final of the IFA Shield against the South Korean team, all of us from Punjab, that is Manjit, Harjinder and myself played so well that the match was described as one between the Punjabis and the South Koreans But, then, I felt really hurt when Mr Paresh Saha and Mr Arun Ghosh spread the rumour that I was instrumental in creating a misunderstanding between Devraj and myself Believe me, Devraj was one of my very good friends But, Mr Saha didn't stop at this As if not satisfied with it he brought a slander against us three from Punjab that we had spat at the face of Surajit's wife, though Surajit never said so

"Moreover, Mr Paresh Saha started saying that we Punjabis wanted to convert the East Bengal club into a North India team Therefore, when we went to Darjeeling to play in the Gold Cup, Mr Saha saw to it that both Harjinder and Manjit were out of the team for our match with BSF, so that they felt humiliated He also tried to make me play as half-back rather than in my original position as stopper I didn't object because I believed in discipline After we were 0-2 down they asked me to play as a stopper and I agreed After 10 minutes of the second half they brought in Shyamal in my place and we lost that match 0-3 So, having lost the League as well as the Gold Cup at Darjeeling, East Bengal withdrew from the DCM

"Meanwhile all three of us from Punjab applied for inter-State transfer on September 17, 1979, after informing Mr Arun Bhattacharya, the finance committee member of the East Bengal Club He requested to revise our decision, but we were simply fed up with the politics of the East Bengal officials, except Mr Nishit Ghosh, general secretary of the club and Mr B B Ghosh, the president, whom we still revere Both Mr Nishit Ghosh and Mr Arun Bhattacharya asked me to apply for the cancellation of transfer, since, as they said, both Manjit and Harjinder had already written to them that they were willing to stay with East Bengal

"THEN, I committed the greatest mistake of my life by believing them fully I gave them a blank paper on which I had put my signature saying that I was leaving the paper with them in good faith and they could use it as they liked because I was not going to fill in the 'B' form if they stuck to their resolution to take action against those who created all those problems for us Therefore, if I was not filling in the 'B' form, it meant that my transfer would not be granted

"As the club withdrew from the DCM, we took 15 days leave and came to Punjab as we were to play in the Durand Cup It was here that we learnt that East Bengal had withdrawn from the Durand as well In the meantime, Arun Bhattacharya came to Chandigarh in December 1979 and met Harjinder But he did not come to meet me at Jullundur which is not very far from Chandigarh He also didn't talk to Manjit So, naturally, I concluded that since he had not talked to either Manjit or me, East Bengal were not interested about us So, with uncertainty hovering over me I met, a high official of the Punjab Police, who welcomed me back into the Punjab Police team assuring me of promotion to the next rank So I joined the Punjab Police

"In the meantime the East Bengal officials played another dirty trick on me They filled in the blank paper with the statement that I did not want any transfer from East Bengal and sent that paper to the then AIFF secretary Mr Vijayrangam at Bangalore But neither the AIFF secretary nor the East Bengal officials told me anything about it In February 1980, I filled in the 'B' form seeking transfer to the Punjab Police and sent it to the AIFF secretary

"Even at that time neither the East Bengal officials nor the AIFF secretary told me that my form had been cancelled So, without knowing all this and believing that since I had filled in the 'B' form I was naturally transferred to the Punjab Police, I went to Calcutta to play in the Federation Cup for my new team But, I was shocked to find my name missing from the transfer list Mr Nurul Amin, the then president of the AIFF told me that if East Bengal did not have any objection to my playing for Punjab Police, he would do something for me But Mr Vijayrangam disagreed, saying that the date was over for the transfer

"After that, East Bengal president Mr B B Ghosh came to me and said that I should play for them in the Federation Cup, as their defence had become very poor since Chinmoy had joined Mohammedan Sporting Moreover, Satyajit Mitra was injured and Manoranjan Bhattacharya pulled his muscles

"I flew to Delhi to seek permission from my department at Jullundur When they refused, I sent a telegram to Mr B B Ghosh saying that permission was not granted But, after that, they failed to make any contact with me Consequently, when I found that I could not play for Punjab Police for one year only because of the foul play by the East Bengal officials, I decided to complete one year's upper class course at the Police Training College, Phillur So, for a year I was out of practice

"The only thing I would like to ask is that when they can't tolerate anyone from other States and other countries, why do the East Bengal officials ask such players to play for their club and thereby finish their soccer career in the way I have done?"

ASIAN JUNIOR WRESTLING

Ramphal saves India's face

MORE than a year ago, in the first Asian Wrestling championships at Jullundur, India rounded off without a gold medal. The same thing would have happened again in the first Asian Junior Wrestling championships held recently at Hissar but for Rajasthan's Ramphal, who emerged the lone gold winner for the country. In fact, there were three in line for the top honours, but Gian Singh (60 kg) and Mahtab (87 kg) could do no better than bit silver.

However, Ramphal's triumph came in the midst of controversy and protests with his challenger boycotting the victory ceremony. The Iranians alleged that the fight was stopped with one full minute still to go. Ramphal was 6-5 ahead on points against Saeid Hanlou when the bell rang. Instantly the Iranian officials jumped into the arena, angrily protesting and pointing towards the clock. Their objections were, however, turned down. Many among the audience felt that the protests were not totally unjustifiable. As a result, Ramphal mounted the victory stand.

Unmindful of the deprivation, the Iranians fought spiritedly and proved the foremost wrestling nation in Asia, winning three gold, three silver and two bronze medals. Mongolia was another country to parade three champions and a bronze medallist while Japan bagged two gold medals. India slightly improved their position in points tally by claiming four bronzes through Mahabir (52 kg), Rajinder Singh (56 kg), Chob Singh (81 kg) and Sukhbir Singh (over 87 kg).

There were quite a few extremely keen and exciting bouts which made one to speak highly of the standard prevailing in Asia. Those closely associated with the sport attributed one of the reasons to non adherance to the stipulated age limit of 18. Some of the wrestlers did appear above the prescribed limit. When the point was brought to the notice to Mr. D. D. Kashyap, the president of the Wrestling Federation of India expressed helplessness and said the world body was seized of it but has not taken any remedial measures.

In all, 61 wrestlers from nine countries, including India, took part in the championships. There were about the same number of officials. In this well-represented meet, only the Koreans did not turn up. The wrestlers and officials were lodged at the Haryana Agricultural University hostel. The proposed expenditure was over seven lakhs. Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia and Palestine were represented. While the Iranians fielded their full team, Mongolia sent four impressive stars who gave easily the most outstanding performances, striking three golds and a bronze.

In view of the strained relations among some of the Asian countries, strict security arrangements were made. Armed guards in large number were posted. However, on the arena the tension could be seen. The Iraqis and the Iranians did not see eye to eye. Whenever there was an occasion of confrontation, the Iraqis conceded the bouts. The customary formality of a handshake was not observed. A wrestler from Palestine also did not fight with an Iranian. Even a gold medal was not cared for. Rai Deval was the grappler who conceded gold medal to Iran's challenger in the final bout. Daval is of Indian origin. Years ago his parents settled in Basra. In the two bouts he had fought earlier Daval gave a fine account of himself and was certainly deserved a gold. Daval won by a fall against Mohammed Azam of Pakistan and then scored a technical fall win over Maurice Sihombing of Indonesia. He finished second without being beaten.

India's lone gold medal winner Ramphal was taking part in his first international competition. He started with a points win over Sohail Rashid in the 48 kg class. He prospered in a similar way against Japan's Izuk Ahidaki before taking on Saeid Hanlou for the title bout. Ramphal was a point behind at the break but recovered against the swift moving Japanese and even managed a point advantage. As soon as he took the lead the bell went and he was declared winner. All the protests proved futile.

Mahavir (standing) left) during a workout under the supervision of Guru Hanuman



In race for the top honours, Gian Singh lost on points to Akarshi Kosei of Japan. He had won the opening bout against Mudrak Asiem of Afghanistan, scored over another Afghan in the next round and recorded his third successive win outpointing Najafnasta of Palestine. His hopes for the 60 kg gold were crushed by the Japanese. Mahtab was the other Indian to have moved within sight of a gold medal, but Mehdi Habibpour of Iran proved too good for him, winning the 87 kg title with a handsome margin of 13-5 points.

Mahabir and Rajinder are two of our well known wrestlers in the lighter weights and they always raise hopes in home hearts. Mahabir had been a world schoolboy champion and also India's representative at the Moscow Olympics. He has a bag of awards to his credit. But he failed to live up to the expectations and finished only with a bronze in the 52 kg. He got the better of Pakistan's Akhtar Mohammed to clinch the third place behind an Iranian and a Japanese. Sabir Hussain of Pakistan offered token resistance to Chob Singh of UP for the 81 kg bronze.

Rajinder is a graceful fighter with rich international experience. Yet he suffered a setback in the opening bout itself when Japan's Sugawara Niroshi beat him. Although Rajinder won his two subsequent fights against Iran's Asgari Mohamadin, he had to be content with the third place in the 56 kg.

An Afghan triumph in the 75 kg category was hardly on the card, but Khaja Wahid fought splendidly to emerge the champion. However in strength and muscle power, there was none to match the Mongolians. Broad shouldered and short they fought vigorously to prove best in the 65 kg, 70 kg and 81 kg classes. The manner in which Boatarh won the 87 kg bronze, scoring point after point against Iraq's Faize Fous, thrilled the spectators.

Haryana has lot of interest in wrestling and that was proved by the large number of fans who turned up daily at the arena. But on the final day, heavy showers forced the organisers to shift the venue from the Nehru Stadium to the covered boxing hall. But not more than 3000 could find space here. There was further setback due to power failure for more than an hour.

If the performances at Hissar are any indication, India will have to strive hard to make their presence felt in the forthcoming Asian Games.

A CORRESPONDENT, Hissar

Sportspeople

World fencing champion

HOURS after beating China's Jujie Luang 8 4 in the final of the women's foil event at the World Fencing championships in Clermond Ferrand, France, *Cornelia Hanisch* from Offenbach was in a pensive mood

"She sure had self confidence," she said of the Chinese girl "She really took it easily A tough customer, very tough indeed, as a fencer, that is."

But Miss Hanisch, 29, a games mistress and history teacher, won clearly "because I always tried to stick to my tactical guns" She responded aggressively from a basically defensive stance

She was able to do so because she knew her opponent's style of play, having fought the 23-year-old Nanking girl in Shanghai last October.

Whenever the referee interrupted the bout in Shanghai, she recalls, she reminded herself to memorise Miss Ju's style she felt sure she would be meeting her again

Miss Hanisch won the world crown two years ago in Melbourne, Australia, where she recalls behaving strangely for days afterwards

"I packed a big scrubbing brush in my kitbag for instance, and took it with me to the gym When I got there I wondered what on earth I had intended doing with it"

This time round it was all different Eight hours after the 20 bouts she fought to defend her world title she felt as fit as a fiddle "Mentally? Oh sure," she added

Her team-mates would agree with that She chatted with Ingrid Lohsert from Freiburg until three in the morning about unrest among young people, environmental conservation and theories of one kind and another "until we ended up with the theory of relativity"

She is very happy with the current German women's team "They are all girls you can chat with until the small hours, and not just about fencing"

In Clermont-Ferrand they all enjoyed going out for a meal too Cornelia Hanisch is 1.65 metres (5 ft. 3 in) tall and weighs 55 kg (121 lb) and has an enduring passion for eating good food

Her fencing had been extremely well-disciplined, said trainer Horst-Christian Tell, 45, but she did not equate discipline with asceticism at any price.

Not until the finals were over did she succeed in getting to bed early at Clermont-Ferrand "It's a throwback to my student days," she explained.

Besides, back home in Hesse many of her friends are students who, like her, are late-nighters "At times I manage well with four or five hours' sleep"

She is 29 and feels she would probably not enjoy her fencing any longer if her private life were too restricted "I'm 29 and life is fun So is fencing In that order"

She did not train this time as hard as she did before the Montreal Olympics She used to practise each and every tactical move until it was perfect, nowadays it all comes automatically

"I have developed behaviour patterns that I can resort to whenever I need to do so," she says

This certainly proved the case in her final against a Chinese girl with whom the others were totally unable to come to terms

(Courtesy German News)

Cornelia Hanisch



Nasir is back

SOME felt that, monetarily he had struck a goldmine Others thought he had struck a bad patch and was, therefore, leaving the country for pastures new

But the fact is, *Nasir Ahmed*, the erstwhile Bengal goalkeeper, had gone to assist Dacca Mohammedan Sporting of Bangladesh purely for personal reasons He had a host of relatives in Bangladesh and felt that a brief sojourn would not do him any harm

But Nasir is back in Calcutta, a little disillusioned He had taken four months leave from his Reserve Bank departmental office for the goalkeeping trip across the border But his team had barely played four matches when trouble broke out A referee was assaulted as rival groups clashed over match supervision Worse was to follow Abahani, one of the leading teams in Bangladesh, refused to continue playing when there were repeated disturbances in almost all their matches The league itself was disrupted

Having nothing to do and with his leave period almost complete, Nasir came back to Calcutta Just a few days ago, he learnt that the League was to get under way again But, by then, he had applied for a transfer certificate from the Bangladesh Football Federation

Now that Nasir is back, football fans feel he should be called up for the trials to select the Indian team for the Asian Games Nasir is certainly one of the best goalkeepers in the country

News round-up

MP soccer in sad plight

JABALPUR: It cannot be understood why, despite the reported comments, published in the issue of *Sportsworld*, dated June 10, about the shocking state of affirs of the Madhya Pradesh Football Association, which is led by S R Deo Ashoke Ghosh, secretary AIFF, has not taken any action to remedy the evils afflicting the game in this State A D Mishra, an executive member of the Jabalpur District Football Association, which had ousted the Deo group in the JDFA elections told *Sportsworld* "I would like to appeal to Mr Ashoke Ghosh through your magazine to take immediate action against the Deo led MPFA Mr Amarjit Sharma who was suspended from the local Canara Bank for alleged forgery and cheating and was later arrested under section 420 IPC and thereafter released on bail was appointed by Mr Deo as an additional treasurer of the MPFA Mr Deo is also the president of the local Madras XI club which is lowly placed in the JDFA league Now, the irony is that though Central Railway (Jabalpur) is on top of the league table, it is the Madras XI club that is always recommened by the MPFA for entry into every all India tournament The reason is that all clubs that had voted against Mr Deo's group are thus being sidelined from the national scene"

"Mr Deo asks the players of other clubs also to participate in all India tournaments under the banner of Madras XI club Naturally, it causes deep frustration among the deserving players" One such player is the talented 22 years old right in Ashique Ali of Central Railway, who told *Sportsworld* "Though I am always told orally by Mr Deo that there are charges of indiscipline against me, nothing in writing have so far been given to me The last time I played for MP was at the Srinagar Nationals in 1978 In the 1980 Rovers Cup at Nagpur I played for Central Railway (Jabalpur) and was adjudged the best player of the tournament Again, while playing for the Challengers' Club, Jabalpur, in the all-India HEL tournament in 1981 at Sonabdea (Orissa), I received the best player's award But I don't know why Mr Deo is angry with me"

SUJEET MOHANTY

Fresh talent unearthed

HYDERABAD: Like all Nationals, the 17th All-India Post and Telegraph wrestling championships, recently held at the Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, saw fresh talent come into prominence.



A wrestling bout in progress during the P & T championship

It was exciting all through, unlike exhibition bouts, where one witnesses off the-mat wrestling and hurling of knives by the rival groups But here, thanks to their vision, the participants took everything in their stride like true sportsmen

In the above 100 kg class bout, two gigantic fighters Durga Singh of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan's Joginder Singh walked towards the mat with the commentator announcing that the show would enthral the crowd, which was believed to be 5,000 strong The final whistle was given and in less than 20 seconds everybody saw Durga Singh, like a professional, throw poor Joginder all round the mat and pin him down In the end Joginder Singh was beaten by a fall

On the opening day, in the 82 kg class, Mahabeer Singh of Rajasthan caused an upset when he won against Kher Singh (Delhi)

Another major upset in the three day meet took place in the 74 kg class when the Rajasthan grappler Virender Singh won against the former champion of Delhi, Swaroop Singh, on points

Hyderabad, which produced many a national standard wrestler, fared well by securing the fourth place, thanks mainly to Jayashanker and Durga Singh

Jayashanker won the 52 kg class bout

Rajasthan region, with a tally of 54 points annexed the team championship, followed by Delhi (34 pts), Karnataka (22 pts) and hosts Andhra Pradesh (21 pts)

Though the P & T wrestlers put up a good show, it was pathetic to note that most of them were from class three and four

M. J. PANKAJ

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

70-year record, gaol —and a gold watch

When an Australian wicketkeeper in a Sheffield Shield match in the 1938–39 season caught nine batsmen and stumped three he equalled an English man's record that had stood for 70 years. Today the record of 12 wickets in one match stands to the credit of three keepers—the man who established it last century, Edward Pooley of Surrey, and two Australians. Pooley set the record when he caught eight batsmen and stumped four in a Surrey–Sussex match at The Oval in 1868.

Eight years later he was a member of the fourth England team to set out for Australia but, because of an incident in New Zealand, he missed the two matches against Australia which later came to be recognised as the first Tests between the two countries. Pooley's troubles in New Zealand arose from a bet he made—a bet that earned him gaol time and a gold watch.

In *The Phoenix History of Cricket*, Roy Webber tells the story. Australia took the field without the assistance of their wicketkeeper. E. Pooley having been detained in New Zealand after an incident in one of the minor matches of that part of the tour. Pooley entered into a bet with a local spectator, saying he would forecast the score of each individual batsman in the home XVII, the stake to be £1 to Pooley if he were right and Pooley to pay one shilling if he were wrong.

It was an old trick. Pooley nominating a duck for each man's score, with the certain knowledge that a few ducks were sure to appear in the score-book. The New Zealander refused to pay up, after which there was a lot of ugly scuffling, but the tourists went on from Otago Beach to Dunedin thinking the matter was closed. At the end of the Dunedin match, however, Pooley was arrested and spent six weeks in gaol under a criminal penalty, he learned, of the £1 bet. All the team's wages remaining were found to have been attached, with Cuddy and Pooley and the pair were fined a total of £10 plus costs.

The locals who bet Pooley that the men had been harshly treated subscribed £40 for them and presented Pooley with a gold watch. But the tour of Australia went on without him. Pooley returned to England on his own. Pooley's record was not equalled by a 22-year-old Australian keeper who was to be unfairly omitted from the team that toured England in 1938 and went on to stamp his brilliance on the 1938–39 Sheffield Shield season in Australia. Besides equalling, in Sydney, Pooley's dozen victims in a match, he also became only the fourth wicketkeeper to bag seven wickets in an innings, in a match against Victoria. Wally Grout holds the world record, eight all caught, in a Queensland–Western Australia match at Brisbane 1959–60.



Wally Grout

QUESTION 1 Which Australian wicketkeeper first equalled Pooley's record—a player whose aggressive batting earned him centuries for his State against Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia and 92 against England in a Test?

QUESTION 2 Who was the second Australian wicketkeeper to equal Pooley's 1868 record?

A third Australian holds the record for most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in a Test match. He set the record against England at Lord's when he caught eight batsmen and stumped one.

QUESTION 3 Who was this wicketkeeper, who, in 26 Tests, dismissed 98 batsmen?

While the record for a 'keeper's dismissals for a Test match is held by an Australian, yet another Australian holds the record for most dismissals in a first-class innings. In a Sheffield Shield match he caught eight batsmen and so set two records for first-class cricket—greatest number of dismissals by a keeper in one innings and greatest number of catches in an innings.

QUESTION 4 Who was this Australian 'keeper who dismissed 187 batsmen in 51 Tests and in his first-class career dismissed, in all, 588 batsmen?

Highest Test innings recorded without byes is 659 for eight wickets declared by Australia against England in Sydney.

The English keeper who gave this fine performance was playing in his first Test against Australia.

He watched two Australians make identical scores of more than 200, one batting for 10 hours 42 minutes, the other 6¼ hours.

In the next Test in Melbourne, he allowed no byes in Australia's first innings of 360—so that in two successive innings totalling 1,024 runs he allowed no bye. This figure was carried to 1,054 before he conceded his first bye in Australia's second innings of the Melbourne Test.

QUESTION 5 Who was the immaculate English 'keeper?

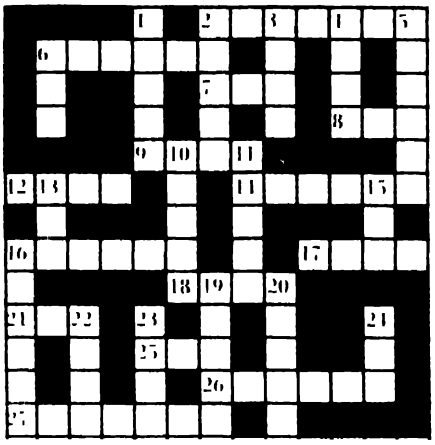
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Charles Jesse Kortright
2 Albert ("Tibby") Cotter

Crossword

Jones & O Brien

122



ACROSS

2 Hats out of season in English winter (7)
6 English cricketer nicknamed Goose (6)
7 Narashima Rao has missed the —of Test cricket (3)
8 Did Sita marry part of Krishnan s son (3)
9 One of two in a game (4)
12 First Indian to be seeded at Wimbledon (4)
14 Wrestling Admiral (6)
16 State of Barbati (6)
17 Twelve-inch goal scorer (4)
18 Initially no public races Now (1,1 1,1)
21 Worthless horse (3)
25 Mathematical sounding Indian cricketer (3)
26 First international Spanish goalkeeper (6)
27 Substitute service (7)

DOWN

1 Do women cricketers wear these and field ? (5)
2 Colourful ex-Indian cricketer, stops before being an egoist (1,1,3)
3 Sun sets on bridge table (4)
4 British horse race entangled in robe (4)
5 Indian hockey-playing sailor at Amsterdam Olympics (6)
6 Synonymous with victory (3)
10 Adonis of Pakistan cricket (5)
11 Swimmer who finishes at the start (5)
13 What a bat was to Grace, this was to Kelly (3)
15 Disgusted sounding T T layer (3)
16 Only four-time Olympic athletic winner (6)
19 Start of old-time boxer competed for (5)
20 First centurion nightwatchman, ascends (1,4)
22 Overtake in football? (4)
23 Boxers have used for this part of ship (4)
24 Climb ladder of tennis rankings (1,1,1)

(Solutions next week)

Question box

Amitabh Bachhan, Giridih.
Q What is the Test batting record of Pankaj Roy?
A 43 Tests, 79 innings, 4 times not out, 2,442 runs, 173 highest score, 32 56 average, 5 centuries, 9 fifties and 14 zeroes

Pradeep Mukherjee, Kotulpur.
Q. How many batsmen have scored a triple ton in Tests?
A 10 batsmen have scored 11 triple tons in 908 Tests

Ashutosh Mukherjee, Raigarh
Q How many runs did Vishwanath score on the tour of England in 1979?
A 341 in 7 innings of 4 Tests w 48 71 with 113 as highest score at Lord s in 1979

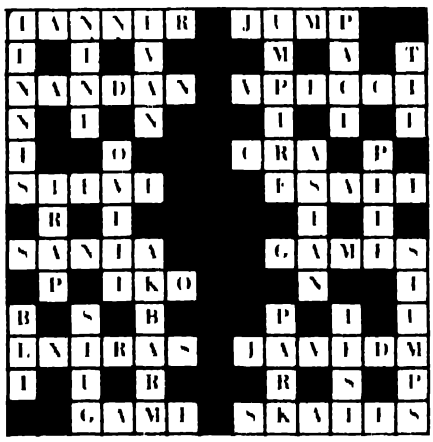
K Krishna Murthy, Bhubaneswar
Q What is the Test batting record of Roy Fredericks?
A 59 Tests 109 innings, 7 not out, 4 334 runs, 169 highest score, 42 49 average, 8 centuries 26 fifties and 7 zeroes

Khurshed Durranni, Patna
Q Which Indians have crossed 2,000 runs mark in Tests?
A. Gavaskar (6 218), G R Vishwanath (5,280), P R Umrigar (3,631), V L Manjrekar (3,208) C G Borde (3,061), M A K Pataudi (2,793), F M Engineer (2 611), P Roy (2 442), V S Hazare (2 192) A L Wadekar (2 113), V Mankad (2 109), D B Vengsarkar (2,384), M L Jaisimha (2 056), D Sardesai (2,001), and C P S Chauhan (2,084)

T V Subba Rau Hyderabad
Q How many catches has Vishwanath taken in Tests?
A 53 in 75 Tests

Satyanand Subud, Dalcipur; M Islam Anjan
Q What is the Test batting record of Zaheer Abbas?
A 43 Tests 76 innings, 6 not out, 2 719 runs, 274 highest score, 38 84 average, 6 centuries 9 fifties and 5 zeroes

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 121



J S. Bowaj, A Natarajan, Bangalore
Q How many fifties Vishwanath has registered?
A 30 fifties in 75 Tests

T Raghu Ram, Guntur.
Q. What is the Test batting record of Greg Chappell?
A 67 Tests, 119 innings, 15 times not out, 5,719 runs, 247 not out highest score, 54 99 average 18 centuries 28 half centuries and 9 zeroes

Kishan Agarwal, Ranchi
Q. What are the best bowling figures of Kapil Dev and Karsan Ghavri?
A 7 56 by Kapil Dev vs Pakistan at Madras in 1979 80 and 5 33 by Karsan Ghavri vs England at Bombay in 1976 77 are the respective best bowling figures of the two bowlers

L Madhusudanan, Madras
Q Who has taken highest number of wickets in a Test match?
A Jim Laker of England has taken the highest number of 19 wickets in a Test vs Australia at Manchester in 1956

M D Yakub
Q What is the Test bowling record of Majid Khan?
A 27 wickets for 1,416 runs w 52 44 per wicket in 57 Tests.

Raj Kishore Prasad, Hazaribag
Q How many victims did Farokh Engineer dismiss behind the stumps in his career?
A 82 victims comprising 66 catches and 16 stumpings behind the stumps in 46 Tests

Quiz

QUESTIONS

Identify the following sport personalities of yesteryears

1 Beavan Congdon
2 Harry Vardon
3 Dragan Dzajic
4 Lynn Davies
5 Robert Graeme Pollock
6 P G Sethi
7 Sucha Singh
8 Bhim Singh
9 Rima Dutta
10 Mohanlal Ghosh

ANSWERS

1 Former cricket captain of New Zealand
2 Internationally famous English professional golfer
3 Yugoslavia s soccer star
4 British long jumper who held the Olympic, European and British records at a time
5 South African Test batsman
6 Noted Indian golfer
7 Indian cyclist of repute
8 Famous Indian wrestler
9 Ace swimmer of India
10 Weightlifter from India (No 6 to 10 are all Arjuna Award winners)

M. Rajeshwar, Adilabad.
Q. What is Javed Miandad's highest score in Tests?
A. 206 vs New Zealand at Karachi in 1976-77

Nripen Kakati, Sorbhag.
Q. What is the Test record of Ian Chappell?
A 75 Tests, 136 innings, 10 not out, 5,345 runs, 196 highest score, 42 34 average, 14 centuries, 26 half centuries, 10 zeroes, captain in 30 Tests.

Sudesh Prasad, Howrah.
Q. What is the 'keeping record of Naren Tamhane in Tests?
A. In 21 Tests, Naren Tamhane has 51 victims (caught 35 and stumped 16)

Jatin Das, Jorhat.
Q. What is the name of the club that has produced some of the famous cricketers of India like Ramakant Desai, Ajit Wadekar, Subhash Gupte and others?
A. Shivaji Park Gymkhana, Dadar, Bombay

Sandip Nayak, Howrah, Sonu, Delhi; U. Rajaraman, Kumbakonam, Lamkhalal Lengen, Imphal.
Q. What is Test record of Tony Greig?
A. Tests 58, Innings 93, Not out 4, Runs 3,599, Highest score 148, Average 40 43, Centuries 8, Catches 87; Balls bowled 9,802, Runs 4,541, Wickets 141, Ave 32 20
Q. Is there any player who made his debut as a captain?
A. Yes. There are many players like Tony Lewis, Nigel Howard, A H. H Gilligan of England, A. Melville, H. F Wade of South Africa, Iftikar ali Khan of India

Rajarshi Roychowdhary, Katihar.
Q. For how many seasons did Pataudi, Engineer, Bedi and Venkataraghavan play in English County Cricket?
A. Pataudi played for 7 seasons in English County Cricket Championship, while Bedi played for 6 seasons, Engineer for 9 seasons and Venkataraghavan for 3 seasons

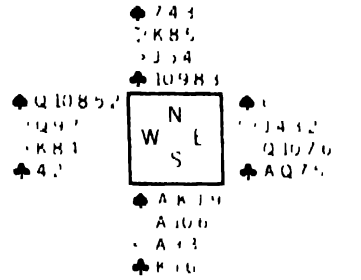
Kajal Mukherjee, Rudranagar.
Q. Which batsman has scored maximum number of centuries in Ranji Trophy?
A. Vijay Hazare has scored a maximum of 22 centuries in Ranji Trophy

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

The Portland Club Cup, the British Mixed Pairs Championship, is by it's nature a very 'mixed' event The men regarding themselves as the stronger players make every effort to bid the major suits and no trumps before their partners get a chance to mention them Coupled with the fact that some of the partnerships are not too familiar with each other's methods, this always leads to a series of strange results Comparing cards with a friend last year I was prompted to ask whether we had been playing the same set of hands

From this year's competition, however, there was a breath of sanity about this well defended hand



South dealt at game all and opened 2NT North raised optimistically to game and declarer was off to a good start when West made the natural, but unfortunate, lead of the five of spades (I am reminded of a similar situation when a defender had made an unfortunate lead "What is your lead style against no trumps?" inquired declarer in an earnest fashion "We tend to lead suits in which our partner has a singleton", was the gloomy reply)

Certainly the lead worked badly and declarer won a cheap trick with ♠ 9 Reasonably enough, with only one entry to the table, he started clubs by leading the King; East won and, although a diamond switch would have killed declarer's chances immediately the play looked dangerous and instead he tried a low heart To keep his entry to the table South won with the Ace and continued with the Jack of clubs

East held off for one round, but won the next club and played another heart South followed low and West did well to unblock with ♡ Q to avoid being thrown in later Dummy ducked this round but won the next heart and cashed the long club on which South and West threw diamonds Now came a diamond to the Ace and West was careful to unblock, this time by dropping ♢ K

A failure to do this would have allowed South to exit with a diamond and collect an extra spade trick, but as the play went South had to be satisfied with eight tricks

Last week's quiz. at game all you hold as South ♠ A Q J 9 7 2 ♡ A K 4 3 ♢ 10 3 ♣ 10 West dealt and opened one club, your partner overcalled with one-diamond and East raised to two clubs The choice lay among three clubs, two-spades, three spades and four-spades, but I think that I would go for the simple three spades There is still room for partner to introduce a heart suit if he has overcalled on a freakish red two-suiter, while two spades is not very dynamic and three-clubs does not seem to advance our cause very much especially if West bids some more clubs

This week's quiz. a reader asks 'Why do some players use transfer overcalls over 1NT by an opponent? For example, two-diamonds asking partner to bid two-hearts Has this any advantages?"

Chess

Peter Clarke

Tomorrow is a very special day The greatest living chessplayer, grandmaster Mikhail Moiseyevich Botvinnik, will be 70 years of age And, as if in celebration of this, Pergamon Press has just brought out his [illegible], translated from the Russian [illegible] afferty and entitled *Achieving the Aim* (hardback at £7 95) Botvinnik is a giant both in intellectual capacities and strength of character, had he not been, he could not have achieved the aims set for him and by him Called by his rivals the 'iron logician' he went from success to success won the world championship in 1948 and held it, apart from two breaks of a year, until 1963 This magnificent record sets him firmly among the top five of all time, the *cinq pionissimi* – namely, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik and Fischer Chance decreed that Botvinnik's career should overlap those of the other four, and thus he met them all in over-the board combat His results were a win and three draws against Lasker, a win five draws and a loss against Capablanca a win and two draws against Alekhine a draw against Fischer, a total of 8½-5½) Two full-scale matches were also planned, but fate stepped in the way Alekhine died in 1946 before he could defend his title – a 'fortunate' escape perhaps, for the World Champion was by then declining steadily and would have been destroyed by Botvinnik in his prime About a quarter of a century later negotiations for a match with Fischer in The Netherlands eventually broke down when conditions could not be agreed with the American grandmaster That was a pity and Botvinnik writes that "it would have been advantageous for Fischer to have played a training match with me, no matter what its result might have been (probably Fischer would have won), the American could have learned a lot from me " This is not arrogance, but objective truth based on proven self-confidence Botvinnik encountered three other World Champions in title matches, and some of his observations about them are valuable He describes Smyslov as "perspicacious", with a talent that was "universal and exceptional" Tal is "an apparatus for data processing, an apparatus possessing a larger memory bank and a swifter reaction than those of other grandmasters' Petrosian "possesses a unique chess talent ' In contrast to the dynamic Tal he "created positions in which events developed as if in a slowed-up film '

At the end of the book there are for reference purposes, nine of the key games from Botvinnik's career They are against Capablanca Flohr, Alekhine, Euwe Keres Tal and Fischer games which, one might say, every chessplayer should know

Competition G492 Solution next week



White

Solution to G491 (Richardson – Kalish, 10th World Correspondence Championship, 1978-80) (2r3nk.7p/3pPpp2/q1p3Q1.1pn1P1P1.1P4NP/P7/5RK1 – White to play.) Britain's top postal grandmaster concluded the game very prettily 31 Kt B5! R B2 32 P K7 RxP 33 KtxR and Black resigned at 33 PxQ then 34 R B8 forces mate)

Problem No 1157 Solution next week
A Chicco (*La Stampa*, 1934)
(3r2q1/1B1n4/1B2pbrn/8/5Q2/4P1p1/RN5k/KR4N1 – 9 white men, 9 black)
White to play and mate in two moves
Solution to No 1156 (Speckmann) (8/5p2/2R5/8/8/3K4/8/3k4 – mate in five.) 1 R B7 (threatening 2 RxP etc) (a) 1 P B3, 2 R-B5 P-B4 3 RxP K B8, 1 R QKt5 K Q8 2 R Kt1 (b) 1 P B4 2 R B4 P B5 3 RxP etc

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GAVASKAR: Exciting, healthy series ahead

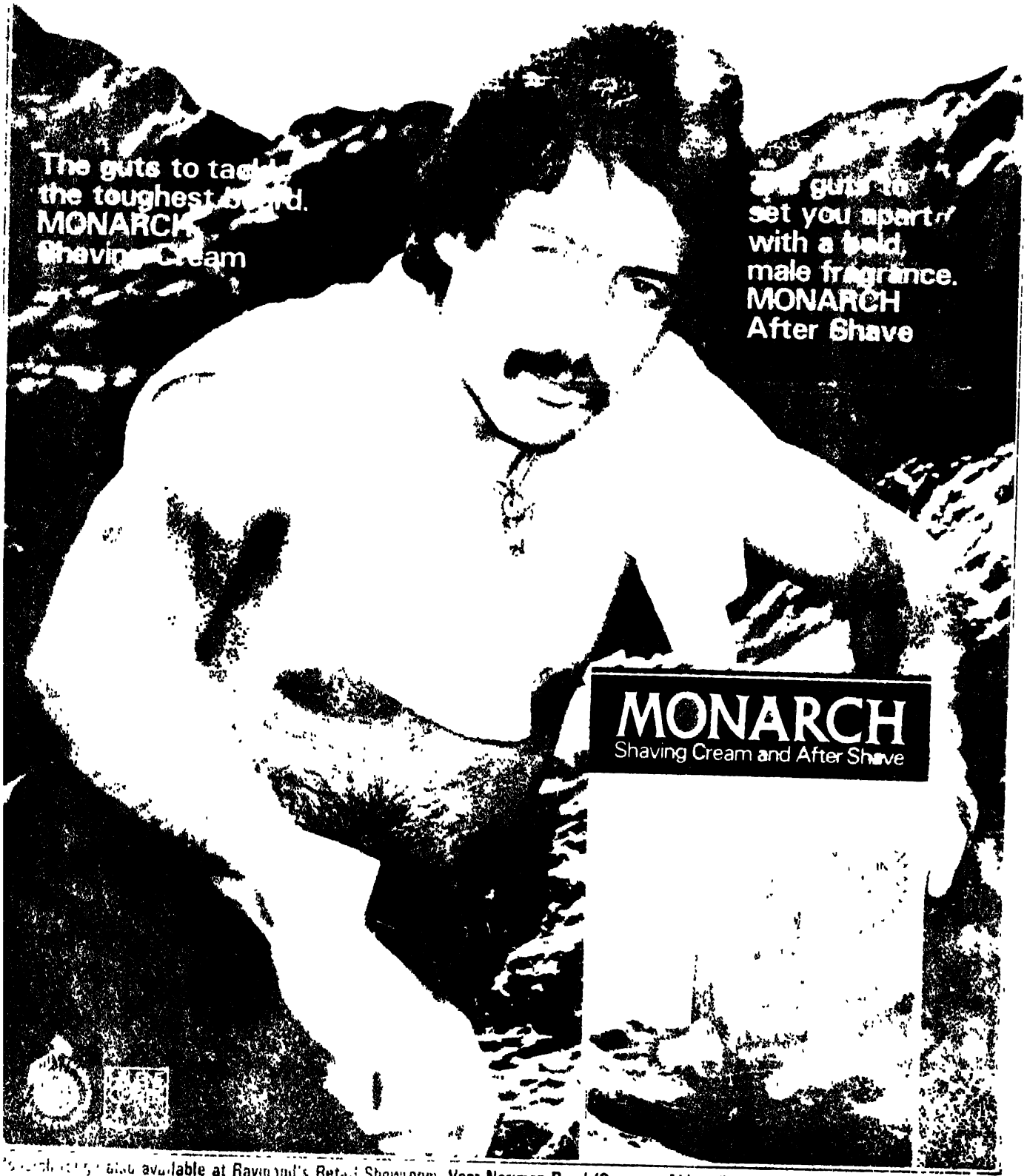


PRAKASH: How I won the Masters



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Letters to the Editor

Obvious choice

THE selectors have done the right thing by appointing Sunil Gavaskar as the skipper of Indian team for the ensuing series as well as for three one-day international matches against England Gavaskar has been named skipper not because the selectors did not have any other alternative, but because he is simply best suited for the job at present He has proved himself to be the most successful captain as well as the batsman India has ever produced Every single member of the team is inspired by his wonderful deeds with the willow over the years in all parts of the world Besides, he is in great form this season, as is evidenced by his numerous centuries in the Wills Trophy, Irani Trophy and Duleep Trophy matches I hope, he will achieve greater success this season both as a batsman and as a skipper

M GOUTAM PRAKASH,
Bangalore

CONGRATULATIONS to Sunil Gavaskar for his appointment as the skipper of the Indian team for the forthcoming series against England He is the fittest person for this job His record of captaincy is by far the best amongst all the Indian captains

R K CHATTERJEE,
Uttarpara

At last

WE wonder why the East Bengal officials so long did not take any disciplinary action against the Iranians. In fact, stern action should have been taken against them for their misbehaviour in the earlier part of the season One recalls with disgust the incident when Majid had the audacity to tell his coach to "get out" The Iranians were given to understand that they were indispensable They, in return, indulged in indiscipline When their ex-player and coach, Santo Mitra, left the club because of the indiscipline on the part of the Iranians, the officials opted for his resignation and chose to pamper their Iranian kids even more. Now the time is ripe for the officials to take stern steps against them, otherwise it may be too late.

DEBYANI SINHA,
Calcutta

Below standard

IT is indeed a great pity to note that the commentary given during the Duleep Trophy match between the East and South Zones was really of very poor standard They could not identify the players properly and seemed to be devoid of a minimum knowledge of cricket. It is hard to believe how AIR selects such people who do not posses adequate knowledge of cricket Instead of popularising cricket in the State the AIR is doing just the opposite

A B SEN,
Cuttack

Why Greg?

THE Australian selectors' policy of changing and chopping the captains will not do any good to the Australian cricket The reappointment of Greg Chappell as the captain of the side is not an encouraging sign and is likely to have adverse repercussion on young Kim Hughes Although Australia failed miserably in England this summer, yet it cannot be denied that Hughes led his side well enough How can Hughes be held responsible for the technical deficiencies of his batsmen?

With due respects to him it can be safely said that Greg Chappell is not a brilliant captain The dashing and brilliant Hughes should have been given another chance to settle down Greg Chappell is a great batsman no doubt, but great batsmen seldom become great captains

DEEPAK GOIL,
Bangalore

Congratulations

A WORD of congratulations to B S Bedi and B. S. Chandrasekhar for being bestowed with honorary life membership of MCC. They were great bowlers and the MCC has done

the right thing by giving them the honour We, Indians, are proud of them.

DR S. K. GUHA,
Balijan North

CONGRATULATIONS to the East Zone team and its skipper Dilip Doshi for achieving a dramatic victory against the star-studded South Zone team in the Duleep Trophy semi-final at Cuttack It is really a pleasure for us to see the East Zone displaying a fighting spirit in all the departments of the match and reaching the final The timely declaration by Doshi which deprived Pranab Roy of a magnificent century and which, at least temporarily, faced a lot of criticism, proved the turning point of the match Doshi deservedly got the 'Man of the Match' award, as he not only shined with the ball but had also shown tremendous potentiality as a captain and of course as a batsman

M K DUTTA,
Calcutta

HEARTIEST congratulations to the East Zone skipper Dilip Doshi and the rest of the players of the team for earning a deserved victory against the strong South Zone team The main architects of East Zone's victory were Arun Lal, Karan Dubey, Pranab Roy, Dilip Doshi and Asjit Jayprakash Arun Lal scored a magnificent century, while openers Pranab Roy and Karan Dubey laid the foundation of East Zone's second innings and paved the path for East's victory. Doshi and Jayprakash bowled extremely well, the former taking six wickets in the first innings while the latter taking six wickets in the second

For South Zone only K Srikkanth deserves praise for his innings of 81 and 51 in the first and second innings respectively He should be given a chance to open India's innings with Gavaskar Lastly, I once again congratulate Doshi for his astute leadership which is responsible for East Zone's victory

A SHADANI,
Cuttack

CONGRATULATIONS to our respected Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and those involved in finalising the English tour to India. After much tension and suspension the cricket lovers in India are eventually assured of some good cricket this winter.

DEBRAJ BANERJEE,
Darjeeling.

Great loss

WITH the passing away of R. S. Gentle, we have lost the services of an outstanding coach and umpire Undoubtedly, the country's best left-back in the Fifties, Gentle first hit the headlines as a 20-year-old when he helped his State win the Nationals He made rapid strides and eventually found his way into the 1948 Olympic hockey team Later, he was also a member of the 1952 and 1956 Olympic teams

A players' man, he often rubbed the authorities the wrong way. After bidding adieu to the game as a player, he served as an umpire and also as a coach His ability as a coach was internationally recognised Spain and Japan were some of the countries which sought his services The IHF should do something concrete to honour Gentle's service to the game

P S MONY,
Trivandrum

No comparison

IN response to K P Gopinath's letter, published in *Sportsworld* of October 28, that Gavaskar's weakness was exploited by Lillee and others, I like to ask him that why other bowlers of different countries could not take advantage of his weakness? He scored so many runs against the established bowlers of different countries. If Sunny is really weak against the moving ball, then how did he score 101 runs at Manchester in 1974, 221 runs at The Oval in 1979 and 116 at Auckland in 1976? His chanceless innings at The Oval was a masterly one Was not the ball moving in the air at that time?

Gopinath has compared Gavaskar with Vishwanath, another great little batsman of India It is unrealistic to compare an opening batsman with a middle-order batsman Truly Vishwanath executes his strokes well and his centuries sometimes brought victories to Indian cricket team.

Gavaskar plays limited strokes at the start of the innings. While Sunny cherishes in playing front foot drives, Vishy likes to execute back foot drives If Vishwanath gets anything outside the off-stump he will square cut it for four runs, while Gavaskar will leave it to the 'keeper Sunny is a rash hooker, that sometimes brings his downfall, Vishy seldom plays this type of shots This is the only difference between them, but one should not compare between an opening batsman and a middle-order batsman

B RAMEN RAO, GOUTAM MUKHERJEE, K P MAHATO and UMA,
Jamshedpur

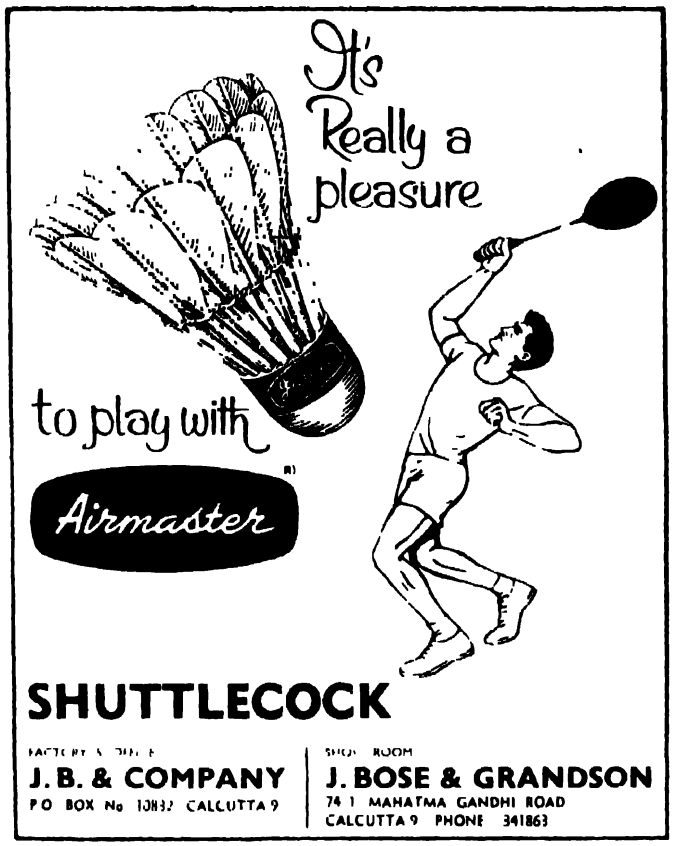
IN response to Lt J. P. Parida's letter in the October 21 issue of *Sportsworld*, I like to mention that, in a country like India, soccer cannot flourish in the hands of a coach P K. Banerjee is definitely trying his best to bring out the best in all the footballers of India, but Parida should know that there is an unknown evil group, called the selectors, who are influenced by dirty politics These people are actually enjoying the fruits, and the roots are given to men like P K, Basha and Aroon Ghosh Then Bhaskar Ganguly is definitely the best custodian of Asia, but Yasin is Yasin and Banks is Banks Bhaskar can, in no way, be compared with them Probably, Bhaskar will agree with me on this point Moreover, will the Selection Board give enough chance and facilities to this young goalkeeper of India?

PRABAL GUHA,
Balijan North.

Poor Vishy

ONE feels really pity for Gundappa Vishwanath, one of the little masters of India, for his current loss of form For the last three series he has been showing a progressive decline in form. I think it is high time for him now to retire with due honour and prestige The admirers of Vishwanath will get a rude shock if he is driven out from the Test side

SOUMITRA SINHA,
Alipurduar.



Editor's page



THE CCI President's match with the Englishmen may have been played for charity, but there was nothing charitable about the attitude of either side. It was played in right earnest much to the gratitude of a huge crowd. Unfortunately, the ground authorities had no time to organise a truer pitch and the result of the hurried preparations was a dampish wicket which helped both teams and spin till late in the afternoon.

By then the result was a foregone conclusion. Sunil Gavaskar having won the toss, quite sensibly put the Englishmen in, and a glance at the bowling averages will show that only Patil gave away more than four runs an over. But these are early days and it was the uncertain movement and bounce which allowed little leeway to the Englishmen to demonstrate whatever offensive manoeuvres they may be stocking in their repertoire. Only Geoff Cook had any positive results to show that he had occupied the crease for any length of time and presumably he will go on to better things in better circumstances. The others fell to some sharp catches and some spirited bowling, and in doing gave no scope to the Indian captain to take stock of their merits or weaknesses. The game gave only a very faint indication of what the future may hold.

What did become apparent as soon as the visitors took the field was that had CCI President's team batted first the game would not have lasted 35 overs. Bob Willis moved the ball late and beat Gavaskar outside the offstump, and one immediately recollected of Lillee doing the same in Australia. Botham somewhat encumbered by winter weight (a minor disadvantage which will be set right by a few days in the sun) trapped Srikkanth lbw and very soon a score of 154 looked a difficult target.

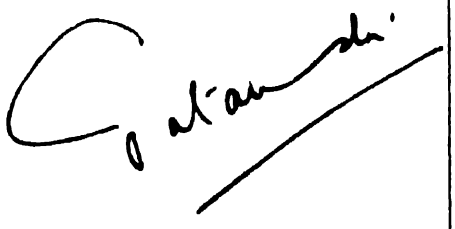
And now we came to the main purpose of this game at least as far the Englishmen were concerned. This was a quick disposal of the Indian captain, to gain a considerable psychological advantage for the main series. Gavaskar did at times look awkward and he did make passes at deliveries which could have been left and he did get out caught in the slips. But in between he scored almost a quarter of his side's total. Admittedly, this was not very much but the circumstances where nobody had inspired confidence. This first contest between the English bowlers and the batsman they fear the most would best be adjudged as inconclusive.



Geof Cook

Another factor which became fairly clear was that with a number of seamers in the side, England will concentrate on bowling on the off stump and will perhaps keep only as few as three fielders on the leg side. This may not detract from the interest in the game, but it will be patient grafting more than flamboyancy which will pay dividends. This, one hopes, has already struck Kapil Dev who has recently failed to make any sort of impact with the bat. India is in need of an all-rounder to bat at number seven and contribute at least 60 to 70 runs in a match. Kapil Dev can do this, if there is a change in attitude, and if he does, he will release one place for a specialist bowler and earn the undying thanks of his captain and his team. He will also make the selectors' job that much easier.

On the evidence of this game it would be unfair and unwise to arrive at any conclusion except of course that England will play their usual professional cricket and to beat her, India will have to play at the limits of her potential. The captain will have to enthuse the same kind of spirit that the team produced against Pakistan but never again after that. If he can, this English team is far from being infallible, and if he cannot he will find the opponents will be totally unimpressed,by individual performances no matter how brilliant they may be.



Cover Story

A YEAR TO GO.....BUT ASIAD IS STILL A DREAM

With just a year to go for the IXth Asian Games, we took a look at the progress made so far. What follows is A CORRESPONDENT's journey into uncertainty

JUST one year from now the curtain is scheduled to go up on the ninth Asian Games in New Delhi It is time the countdown began, with rehearsals and all that But, excepting perhaps for the horse show at the Harbakhash Stadium in the Cantonment, no such exercise is planned Reason it is just not possible to do so The infrastructure is far from ready, and the scaffoldings, rubble and debris at the various stadia and other building sites make one wonder if all the construction activity will be over in time At this rate, we may, at best, be able to scrape through The horse show is different It is run by the Army, past masters at it Which tempts one with a mad idea why not totally hand over the organisation of the Games to the military? As things are, we are in a mad rush and would like the entire project completed on a war footing

Since New Delhi was allotted the Games in 1976, valuable years were lost because of changes of Government and other political reasons, including Mr Charan Singh's aversion to the very idea during his brief tenure as Prime Minister All that is part of a sorry chapter of what is now history, and it would serve no useful purpose to go over the story again But when we did finally decide to go ahead with the national commitment, not all decisions were taken with due thought and deliberation Ambition seems to have got the better of practical commonsense.

An example is the 25,000-capacity air-conditioned indoor stadium It is common knowledge what it means to maintain an air-conditioned indoor stadium for a poor country plagued by energy crises every summer. Or again, the collapsible partitioning planned like they had at the Moscow Olympics. It was later realised that there was no time or money for it, and the idea, on one moment and off another, has now been shelved

In the case of the planned all-weather swimming pool at Talkatora Gardens, the idea of a cover has been given up after much loss of time and

नवम एशियाई खेल-दिल्ली
IX ASIAN GAMES
DELHI 1982

The games village now



money because experts are not sure if the structure can support a roof. Experiencing the nipping inclemency of early November this year, Delhi's swimming enthusiasts look forward to this time next year with shivers down their spines

Quite a few at Pragati Maidan where the Asian Games secretariat is headquartered are alarmed at the prospects ahead. Understandably, they would not like to be identified. These men, like other students of sport other than the uninspiring Pragati Maidan officers, are afraid India will be holding the Asian Games in untried, untested conditions, which is hardly a wise thing to do. In modern sports competitions there are a thousand little details that need close attention and thorough scrutiny before they come up to the required international standard.

Athletics, the prime sport of any event like the Asian or Olympic Games, is to be held on a synthetic "Olymprene" track at the main stadium at Lodhi Road. The Stadium itself is still far from complete and nobody can give you an exact date when the track will be laid, not to speak of installing the timing and other electronic devices. All that talk of many months ago that the stadium will be ready before the next monsoon in time for a mini international meet sounds wishful thinking now.

The next All-India Open meet is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in September 1982. Ask the Services, the hosts where they will hold the meet, and they will not be able to give you a precise answer straightaway. They are not sure the Lodhi Road Stadium will be ready in time To be able to hold the meet in September they would want the stadium to be handed over to them two months in advance It is anybody's guess if that will happen. The structure is only half the job The other half is equally, if not more, important It is the laying of the track, the jumping pits, the electronic installations, facilities for the media, and so on and so forth

Facilities for every other competition, outdoor as well as indoor, also have numerous details to be attended to In games like basketball and volleyball, the flooring and the lighting play an important part Brand new wooden floors and lighting will have defects which only players can spot after actual performances on court. The bounce of the wooden floor and the glare of the lights are things which are perfected after numerous trials and tests These are not trifling matters. They can make or mar a player's

Pleasure trip?

TO enable people to travel abroad to acquire knowledge which would come in handy in organising the Asian Games next year, Air India had provided 200 free tickets. The way these have been wasted has caused much consternation in sports circles. That the Prime Minister herself decided to drastically cut down the number to 75 as a telling comment on what was happening. All 75 tickets have been used up. Mr Gill, secretary-general of the SOC, and C.M. Muthaiah, is technical director, expectedly have made the greatest number of foreign tours. Many other tickets seem to have gone to people who have learnt little or nothing. No reports have been submitted by them on their return.

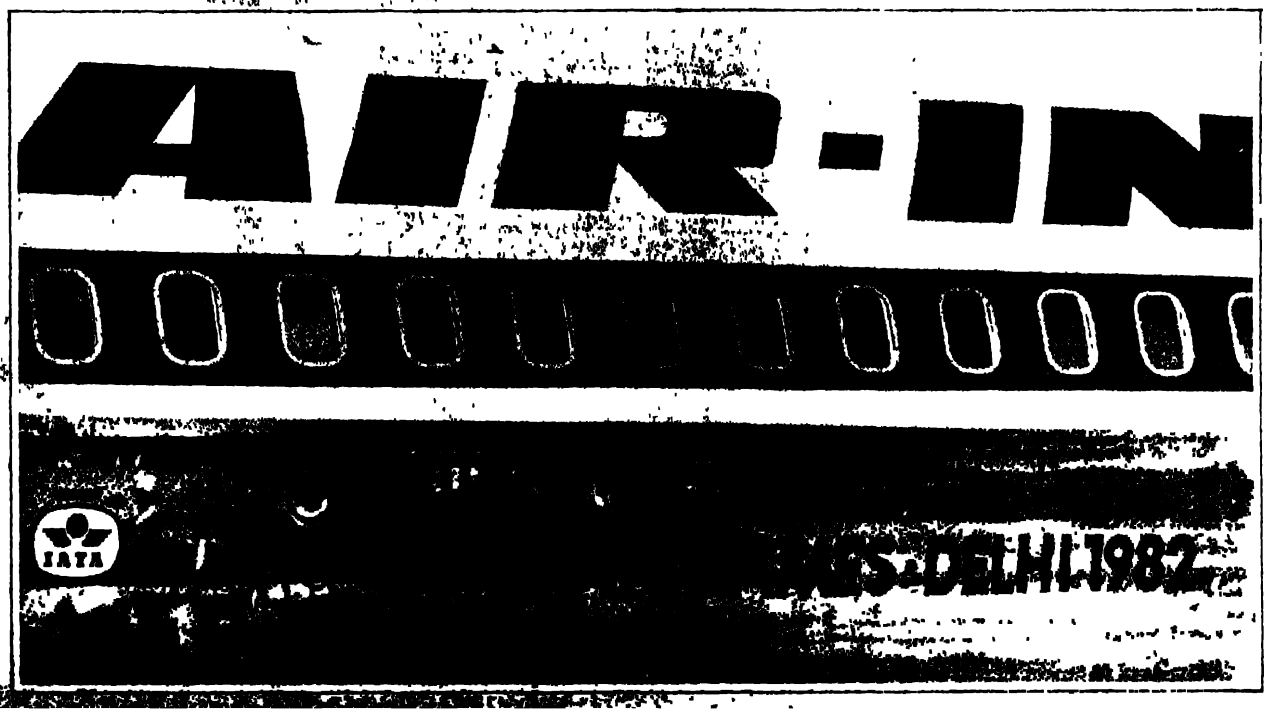
In the case of the World Cup athletics at Rome in September, a few reached there late and were unable even to secure admission into the stadium. These men were supposed to watch how a big track and field meet is held. Their report should have been made public, had they submitted one

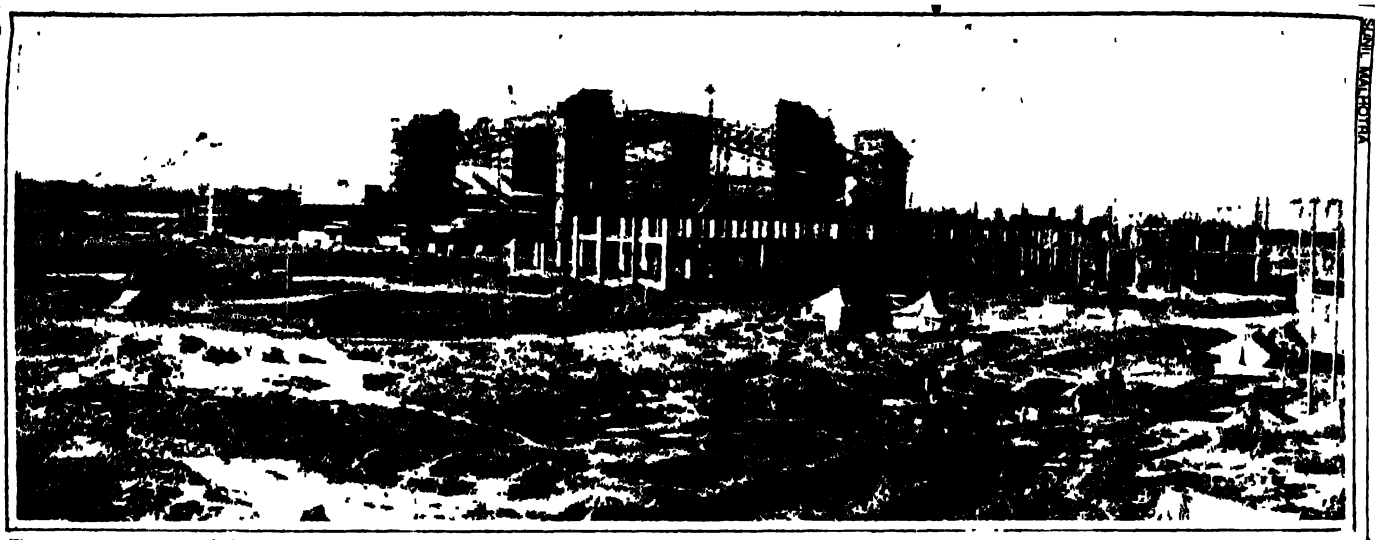
In other cases, people have taken advantage of the free tickets simply because they happen to head this or that committee

Present at the mini-Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in October were Lt. Gen. Sethna, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, M.P., Mr Shri Kant Verma, M.P. Ashok Tandon, Additional Commissioner, Delhi Police, S.S Gill, Dr. C.M Muthiah, Mr K Shankaran Nair, and two officers of the Delhi Development Authority One would like to know if any of these gentlemen, or others connected with the Asian Games committees, cared to go to Hissar to observe the more recent Asian Junior Wrestling Championships But then Hissar is a small town in India not abroad.

Who sanctions these tickets and the procedure followed is not known The names are not put up before the executive board of the SOC

A CORRESPONDENT





SUNIL MALHOTRA

The present position of the indoor stadium at the AP Estate

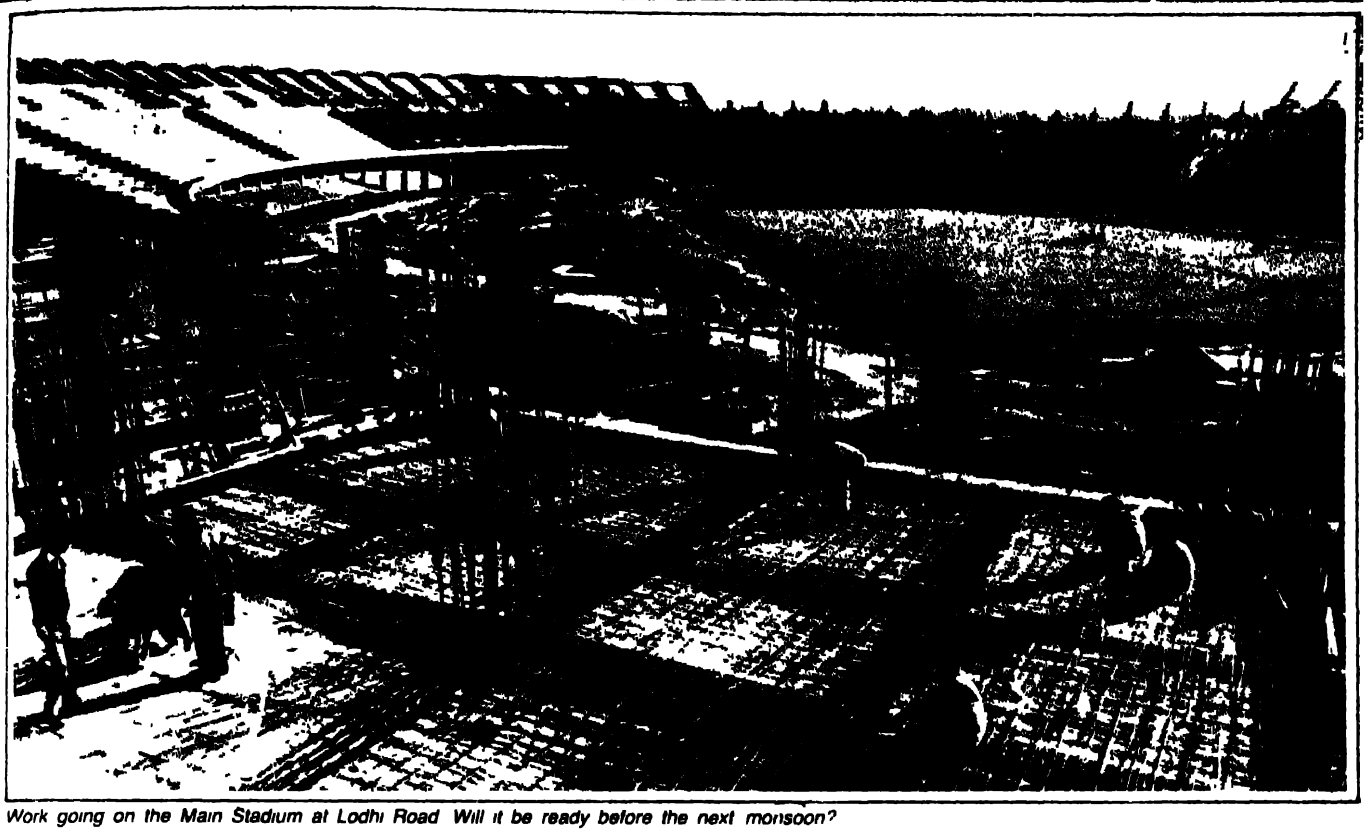
performance What goes for basketball and volleyball also holds good for other indoor disciplines like badminton and boxing, table tennis and gymnastics The facilities for a top class international swimming competition pose even more complex problems The water has to be of a certain temperature and the filteration plant has to be tried before the actual event

Most important of all is the need for a cadre of trained and dedicated people at all levels, from technical persons like referees and others to non-technical ones like ushers and attendants, to run the show once the facilities are there By this time steps should have been taken to raise the cadre Not even a serious beginning has been made yet.

Modern sporting events are prestige issues Which, of course, is not the right attitude to sport In fact, it is contrary to the very spirit of sport But then with all the prestige and attendant publicity that go with sport, it is not at all surprising to see politicians and bureaucrats jockeying for positions at Pragati Maidan New men elbow their way in, edging out others. Excepting for a very few who can be counted on the fingers of one hand, these men have no background at all in sports organisation The politicians at the helm of Asian Games affairs have not been known to efficiently run the affairs of the sports federation they themselves have headed The pity is that the men edged out, or made to leave in disgust or frustration, are the type of people who should be there

While all the paperwork goes on and meetings of various committees take place, the set-up has become a hotbed of intrigue If one politician brings in a





Work going on the Main Stadium at Lodhi Road. Will it be ready before the next monsoon?

Are Indian coaches too hard?

WHEN the athletes [illegible] the Asian Games [illegible] November, the [illegible] be concerned [illegible] showers [illegible] women [illegible] the cap[illegible] ing our [illegible]

The [illegible] has a [illegible] tee [illegible] Nikki [illegible] help one in [illegible] athletes. But [illegible] body so [illegible] over. Mr. [illegible] federations [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

That is the way the great Milkha Singh became what he was. He was a 48 sec. runner when he began the European circuit. But after several experiences of racing with the world's best, he improved and came into the 46 sec. class.

But what the AAFI plans to do next summer should have been done for the last two or three seasons, had it been serious about its preparations. Our track and field athletes get the first mention here because, as in the past, they will be giving India most of her medals.

What about the wrestlers, weightlifters, boxers, gymnasts, shooters, [illegible] rowers and swimmers? What about the team games?

The wrestlers last summer shunned the camps. So did many others. Even now absenteeism is the order of the day at the swimming camps. Some of the coaches who have imported from abroad have little work to do. There are at least seven of them—a few of them at salaries and perks too high by our economic standards. The swimming, gymnastics and volleyball coaches are from the GDR (East Germany). One [illegible] coach from Cuba [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] from [illegible] we will be getting a [illegible] from the GDR.

All this raises one [illegible] question. [illegible] now 21 years [illegible] National [illegible] been functioning, [illegible] coaches came [illegible] foreign coaches [illegible] our men—[illegible] quite good. At any rate, [illegible] coach will [illegible] and the Indian mind and body. [illegible] strategy.

It is all right to say that [illegible] foreign coaches are here only in an advisory capacity, and it is up to the Indian national coaches to consult them or seek their advice. This correspondent knows it for a fact that we are not feeling slighted. At one time we trusted them and ended this dependence on foreign expertise which is certainly not going to achieve any miracles. This psychology of the underdeveloped is very damaging.

The Russians are comparative newcomers to hockey. Yet, after [illegible] two-thirty visits by our experts, they have developed their own coaching skills.

The debate over which soccer coach would suit us—a West German or an East German—was ridiculous. Nobody could tell precisely what difference one or the other would make. What's wrong with our own P.K. Banerjee? Let's trust him.

A CORRESPONDENT

Parry's Eclairs: The taste that's caught on...



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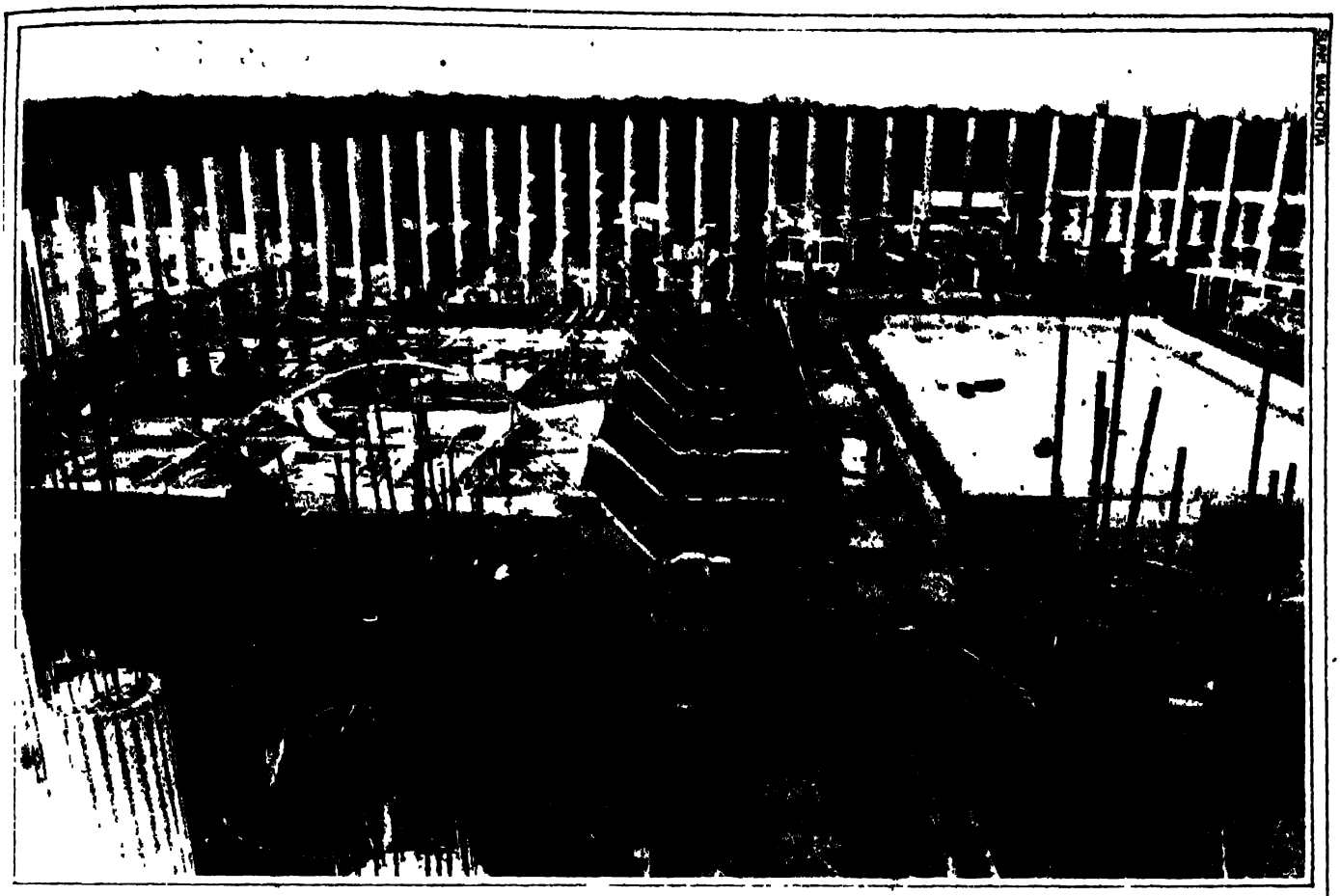
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Swimming pool at the Talkatora Garden

bureaucrat of his choice to clip the influence of another fellow politician, the other man sees to it that an officer of his choice is also drafted in at some important place

Officials of sports federations, who feel left out, also play their own devious roles Most of them cannot stomach the presence of a secretary to the government lording it over as the secretary-general of the Special Organisation Committee Mr S S Gill's choice for the post was made by Mr V C Shukla, before he was eased out of the Union Cabinet and his post as chairman of the SOC Old Madhya Pradesh connections, it is said in the corridors, led to Gill's choice From the Netaji Institute of Sports, Patiala, came Dr C M Muthaiah to fill in the technical director's post The professional's expertise of Muthaiah and his international connections have helped Gill get on with the job some how.

Like Gill, Muthaiah also has had his share of the stick from the national sports federations, who feel that the man dealing directly with world sports federations, is guilty of exceeding his brief The table tennis federation reacted sharply when it learnt about his dealings with the world body So did the football federation But at the same time it is also a fact that some world bodies have corresponded and dealt direct with Muthaiah. Apparently they saw nothing wrong with it When the world's sports federations met in congress recently at Monte Carlo, Muthaiah, along with Gill, was duly there And he did talk to some of the world's sports leaders

The problems about the Asian Games football tournament are believed to have been sorted out by Muthaiah and officials of the FIFA It is now learnt that the difficulties had been blown out of all proportion One now gathers there is no objection against early afternoon matches, and they need not now be played in floodlights After all, the World Junior Championship games last month in Australia were played in early afternoon, it is argued And that, too, at cricket grounds The final itself was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground So it appears there should be no problems in staging some of the Asian Games matches at the cricket Test venue at Ferozeshah Kotla The Delhi and Districts Cricket Association should only be too glad to see Asian Games football being played at their ground For long they have been criticised for not being able to build a proper stadium If Asian Games football matches are played there, then someone else will be building it for them

With people pulling one another's legs, obstacles and irritants and bound to arise—all, no doubt, to the detriment of the task in hand This appears to have become a popular pastime and the habit will have to be stopped Politicians, bureaucrats, officials of the SOC, sports federation and Indian Olympic Association all must act as members of a team working for a common goal Rooms have been allotted at Pragati Maidan for federation offices But hardly any, excepting for the Archery Federation secretary, Mr L. N Khurana, and Mr Yashwant Singh Alwat, who will be in charge of organising the Asian Games tennis, make it a regular practice to sit in the cramped offices Privileges and comforts according to bureaucratic status cause a lot of sniping and heart burning Small matters these, but hardly a good thing in sport Especially when everyone is supposed to be racing against time There is room for a little bit of socialism

"Boycott" is now a common phenomenon in sport The ninth Asian Games also have not been spared Graffiti has appeared on walls in various parts of Delhi urging people to boycott the Asiad "monster" because it will eat away Rs 1000 crores But nobody seems to be taking these exhortations seriously There is no running away from the fact that the Games are a national commitment and will have to be seen through With so much time already lost, and the later planning too grandiose to be satisfactorily completed, it will have to be a scramble in the end There is no escaping the conclusion As someone put it a long time ago, the Games will be held all right, but they may be "maimed and mauled."

Sportsworld Exclusive

GAVASKAR: Exciting, healthy series ahead

IT is not funny.

To be Sunil Gavaskar with its share of instant praise when the things go right and the scathing criticism when they do not, not to mention the controversies you get into, it is not funny. Just the other day in Nagpur after having played an innings spanning six hours, Gavaskar was relaxing in the hotel, but the constant banging on the door by 40 odd autograph hunters denied him this right which every man is entitled to enjoy. That night at one o'clock the telephone bell shattered the peace in Gavaskar's room and the caller said that the *London Times* wanted to interview Sunil and that they wanted to know what would be mumbled into telephone sleepily, "At this unearthly hour this is what you have rang me up for." As the conversation went on Gavaskar realised it was some fellow's corny sense of humour in action.

Five hours later, at 6 a.m. to be precise, another person rang up from the hotel's reception area saying that he wanted to meet Gavaskar. Sunil told him that he was sleeping and that he should come at eight o'clock. That person said that he was not free later on. Sunil suggested in that case he should come to the ground. The person said that as he was busy the whole day he had come at that time. Sunil said "I cannot see you now. I am not up as yet." Five minutes later this man knocked at Sunil's door calling out for the door to be opened. It is not funny.

Gavaskar had been appointed to lead India against England in the coming series. Did he expect it? "Well I was the captain in the previous tour to Australia and New Zealand. Having led in those Tests I knew that at least I would be in the running."

This season Gavaskar has already scored four hundreds. Is it a conscious effort to get runs when viewed against the background of his failures in Australia and New Zealand? Sunil ruminated for a moment and said "No. You do not let your failures dominate you just as you do not let your success dominate you." Obviously any balanced person would analyse his fai-

Vishwanath, Vengsarkar and Roger Binny during a drink interval. Will Vishwanath and Vengsarkar strike form and strengthen India's middle-order batting?





Will Sunil Gavaskar be successful both as a captain and batsman?

innes—where he went wrong, what he should have done and what not to do in the future "I have done my bit As for my big scores this season, no they are not the result of a conscious effort to blot out the low scores Down Under My cricketing upbringing has been simply this, that if you are doing well make the most of it You never know when your luck can change If you are scoring runs you go on Before the season began I had set myself the target of winning the Wills Trophy, Irani Trophy and the Duleep Trophy All my innings have been aimed to that end"

Gavaskar's track record seems to suggest that his single-mindedness of purpose is awesome At 32, Gavaskar has scored 6218 runs in a Test career spanning 69 Tests for an average of 53 His performance as captain is that it is a bit less impressive In the 24 Tests he has led India, she has won seven and lost two

"In an effort to lose weight I do not eat lunch Even at dinner I regulate my eating habit" confesses Sunil But if there is one thing that pricks him it is when people mention his height as other than his actual five feet four inches

How does he assess the English team? Sunil replied, "I think they are bringing too many fast bowlers I think this attitude has been prompted by two factors One, the success of Kapil Dev on Indian wickets and two, the question mark against Indian batsmen when playing fast bowling Bob Willis, John Lever, Graham Dilley and Paul Allott is a good attack Dilley would be the fastest while Willis would be expected to do the most damage Lever, I think, has been picked up because he is an excellent man But if you scan the list you will find that Ian Botham is a bowler in his own rhythm Even Graham Gooch, if need be, can bowl medium pace He is a pretty useful bowler in English cricket It is for this reason that I feel that they have an abundance of fast bowling riches In the three day games they could always have utilised Gooch I think the extra fast bowler has come at the expense of a spinner And let me be honest to say that by bringing just Derek Underwood and John Emburey they have surprised me Anything can happen on tour You can get injured or be ill I also feel the present wickets in India are going to be more helpful to spinners"

"As for the batting, Boycott has scored 7800 runs in Tests Only Sir Gary Sobers has scored more runs Boycott's record speaks for itself Tavare, Gatting, Gower, Gooch, Geoff Cook is quite a fine line up. This English side is like any other English side They may not be spectacular but they are totally professional We will have to earn everything, nothing will be given to us" said Gavaskar. "Their bowlers are very accurate It will be a good fielding side"

What about Keith Fletcher as captain? Sunil promptly replied. "I have never seen him leading Maybe you should ask me this question at the end of the series (laughs) Seriously speaking when I was in England last year I never played against Essex, the County which Fletcher leads"



Kapil Dev appeals in vain against Kim Hughes

What makes Sunil Gavaskar a good captain? What are his strong points? Dilip Sardesai opines "As a skipper Sunil leads by example His performances encourage his team mates" On the other hand, Naren Tamhane feels "Sunil is an outspoken person and a fearless one at that The other members of the team know that if they have problems with authority Sunil can and will speak for them It is this bond of loyalty that is Gavaskar's main power of strength This team has been built by Sunil If it is a strong cohesive unit the credit should also go to him

How did Sunil learn about his appointment as captain? What was he doing at that time? Sunil replied, "They rang up at my residence but I was not in I had gone to see a play The names it is not funny"

Yograj Singh is yet to utilise fully his potential



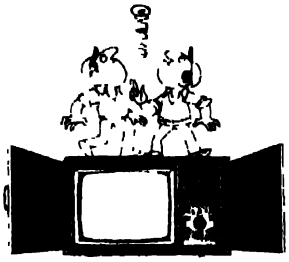
EARLY on, in his career, Sunil Gavaskar was known to be a walker On cricket fields he enjoyed the reputation of being a batsman who did not wait for the umpire's decision if he knew he was out Over the years obviously there were occasions when, though actually not out, he had to bow to the raised fingers of the umpires In Australia, for instance, in the last Test, Gavaskar felt he was not out while facing Dennis Lillee The Australian fast bowler's emphatic and aggressive reaction afterwards ensured that the incident would remain etched on the minds of the cricket fans Gavaskar was not satisfied with some decisions of the Pakistani umpires As a result of his own admission, Gavaskar is no longer a walker At what stage of his career did he decide that he was not going to be a walker? Moreover, did he ever compromise with his conscience? This is not to suggest that he was cheating Far from that it perhaps exhibits his attitude that the umpires' decision is final In the final analysis, strangely enough, the good and the bad decisions even themselves out

Gavaskar revealed that every cricketer experiences such incidents "There are times when he is given wrongly out as well as occasions when he is given the benefit of the doubt One has to remember that the umpire is a human being and naturally prone to errors What one does expect is that the number of errors committed by a Test umpire will be very few Every time a batsman is given leg before, he

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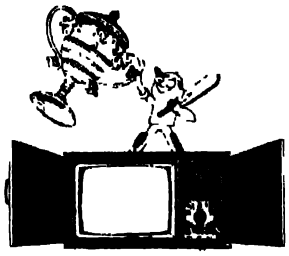
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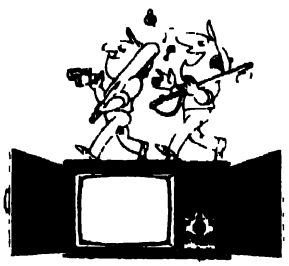
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Patil one of the pillars of Indian batting

feels he is not out, but surely there must have been some times when he was out."

"The incident that changed my thinking on the subject occurred during a match in the Kanga League, a local tournament in Bombay in 1976 I knew I was out and started walking The umpire called me back and said 'Why have you left the crease, I have not given you out. I am the man in charge and I decide who is out Your job is to play, just as my job is to give decisions.' From that day onwards I have followed the decision of the man in the white coat In today's cricket there is nobody who walks At least I have not come across a batsman who is a walker I do not want to say that these are the side effects of commercialisation of the game or for that matter the importance attached to winning. But the point I must repeat is that nobody walks today The only walker I have known is John Walker and he is a New Zealand athlete"

As captain of the Indian team what kind of wickets does he think will suit his players in the forthcoming series against England? Gavaskar opined, "Keeping in mind the strength and weaknesses of our players as compared to those of the English players, I feel flat wickets will suit our cause

Yadav is yet to fulfil what is expected of him





Vishwanath and Vengsarkar are pointing to something Both are expected to rise to the occasion

better—wickets that gradually start turning as a result of the wearing of the pitch. The reason for which I don't wish them to be spinning tracks is that in Derek Underwood and John Emburey, England have two experienced and efficient spinners They are capable of causing trouble to our batsmen Underwood has 279 Test wickets so you cannot rule out the possibility of his bowling a side out."

What should be the composition of the Indian side? "Basically, I have always been in favour of having five batsmen and five bowlers in the Test side. And if two of our bowlers can get runs as well it takes a lot of pressure off our main batsmen. If Syed Kirmani and Kapil Dev can get runs we may reach a good score," said Gavaskar.

Except Gavaskar, none of India's main batsmen seemed to be amid the runs this season. Gavaskar has notched up four tons but the form of the others will not give much comfort The Indian skipper replied, "I had problems in Australia. I have spoken to a few cricketers about my mistakes Down Under Only the coming few months will show if I have been able to work out the right solution Even though Vengsarkar and Kapil are young they have played quite a few Tests. And that is vital experience"

When the one-day cricket was first introduced, Gavaskar had said that it was not his cup of tea. What does he feel now? "For one thing, my fielding has improved I may not have been exactly Colin Bland, but there was a conscious effort on my part to tone up my movements in the field," revealed Gavaskar.

Does he think that the physical fitness of the other members of the team is satisfactory? Gavaskar replied, "As for people like Kapil Dev and Chetan Chauhan, I am not worried They are quite keen on their physical conditioning I just hope the other fellows to keep themselves fit on their own. In this respect, one must appreciate the services of Bernard Thomas as a physiotherapist The English cricketers owe a lot to him In fact, such is the importance of Mr Thomas to the English side that on the tour of India he has been appointed as assistant manager of the team"

There is little doubt that Sunil Gavaskar is held in some awe by his opponents Said Ian Botham, "His concentration is amazing His success is the result of his ability to concentrate for a long period of time In spite of his short height he has developed a very effective technique against big, tall fast bowlers Then, that stint with Somerset in the English County Championships in 1980 certainly improved his fielding Oh yes, when Gavaskar left the County at the end of the season he was a different fielder altogether"

Most people have seen Gavaskar's appointment as captain as an obvious choice In fact, Sunil himself was worried as to who was going to lead in the one-day internationals It was only the next day when he read the news papers that he learnt of his captaincy in the three one day internationals, because the message that he got that night only mentioned his appointment as captain for the Test series

HARESH MUNWANI

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Sportsworld Special

MCC VS INDIA UNDER-22

Botham flays the juniors

HARESH MUNWANI

THE announcement that the captain of the India under 22 team Ravi Shastri was not going to play against the touring Englishmen, as he had to assist Bombay in the crucial Ranji Trophy tie against Saurashtra, certainly robbed the match of some glamour Tamil Nadu opener K Srikkanth took over the mantle of captaincy

The English team decided to rest Gooch, Cook, Taylor, Lever and Underwood Srikkanth won the toss "At that time I was in two minds It looked a good batting wicket Besides, Pune has always had a history of being a batsman's paradise But, at the same time, the wicket did seem to have life. Finally, we decided to have the first knock," he said later

Srikkanth and Shashikant Khandkar started in great fashion Maintaining a run rate of seven per over both the batsmen displayed maturity, while squaring up to Bob Willis and Ian Botham Graham Dilley replaced Willis and soon yorked Khandkar when the batsman had made 41 Lalchand Rajput, who was the new batsman, played calmly, but assuredly Willis and Botham were bowling too short to be effective on this wicket tentatively, settled down to play a responsible innings Except for the occasional flashing outside the off stump the Delhi boy certainly had the right temperament On him fell the responsibility of ensuring that the good start given by the bowlers was not wasted Gursharan's century went a long way to consolidate the team's total of 339 for 7

Vishwanath hooked Botham for four The next delivery was deflected unintentionally to the fine leg boundary This treatment got Botham worked up He soon placed a fielder at mid-wicket and deep square-leg. It did not require much intelligence to know that Botham was going to bowl bouncers Vishwanath got intimidated, and awed by the occasion, immediately gave a catch at deep square leg in an



Ian Botham—led a blitzkrieg

Lalchand Rajput caught by wicketkeeper Richard off Willis



effort to hook.

Srikkanth, the 21-year-old electrical engineer from Madras, was stroking the ball confidently. It was as if he was making up for his failure in the one-day CCI President's XI match From just 53 balls, he managed to score 87 including 18 boundaries. He was out caught behind by Richards, the reserve gloveman of England The English bowling and fielding were not very sharp, but that was understandable as this was the first three-day match of the tour. This game, more than anything else, served to warm them up At lunch, the score read 159 for 2, and at this stage it was difficult to say which side was the real under-22 side.

Jack Richards brought off a good catch on the legside when Rajput tried to fend of a rising delivery from Willis. Rajput's contribution was a neat 38. Gursharan Singh, who started rather

Keith Fletcher kept his promise of not using the three-day games as glorified nets without nets After the under-22 side had declared their innings at the overnight score of 339 for seven, Fletcher himself declared the English innings one hour before close on the second day with the total reading 219 for the loss of one scalp Even though they were 120 runs behind. Fletcher's decision kept the game alive Very few captains would have done what Fletcher had done considering it was the first three-day game the tourists were playing Most captains would have preferred to give their batsmen valuable match practice



Maninder Singh bowls to Tavare



Narrow escape for Gursharan—the Delhi boy scored a century

In a way, Fletcher's decision reflects the confidence he has in his team members And with the kind of experience the English cricketers possess Fletcher probably feels it's a short matter of time before they get going

Geoff Boycott and Chris Tavare opened the English innings There was little to choose between their batting styles If you really want to appreciate Boycott's technique and temperament then there must be something unpredictable about the wicket or the bowling should have some bite In Pune, neither was present and Boycott had absolutely no difficulty in hoisting his 125th hundred in his 500th first class match Boycott was unbeaten with 101

Keith Fletcher looked every bit a good player when he compiled 56 not out Said Fletcher "It was a good wicket Good for the batsmen But these lads are good I think the left arm spinner Maninder Singh and right arm leg spinner Gudge are pretty good"

Srikkanth and Khandkar commenced the second innings at just the same pace as they had done in the first innings In just eleven overs they had put up 82 runs Everything was bang bang Why is it that where Boycott and Tavare had found it difficult to get on with the job Srikkanth and Khandkar were going great guns? Srikkanth felt "It's probably because both of us are attacking batsmen. We like to go for our shots." On the other hand Fletcher said: "There is very little a bowler can



do on this wicket. Besides, my bowlers and fielders have not yet warmed up. It is our first three-day game."

NOT many people must have imagined the eventual result The English team won with six wickets to spare After Srikkanth, Khandkar, Rajput and Ghai had proved that their effort in the first innings was not a fluke the under-22 skipper declared the innings at the lunch score of 180 for 2. This meant that the visitors had to get 301 to win in two and half hours plus the 20 mandatory overs

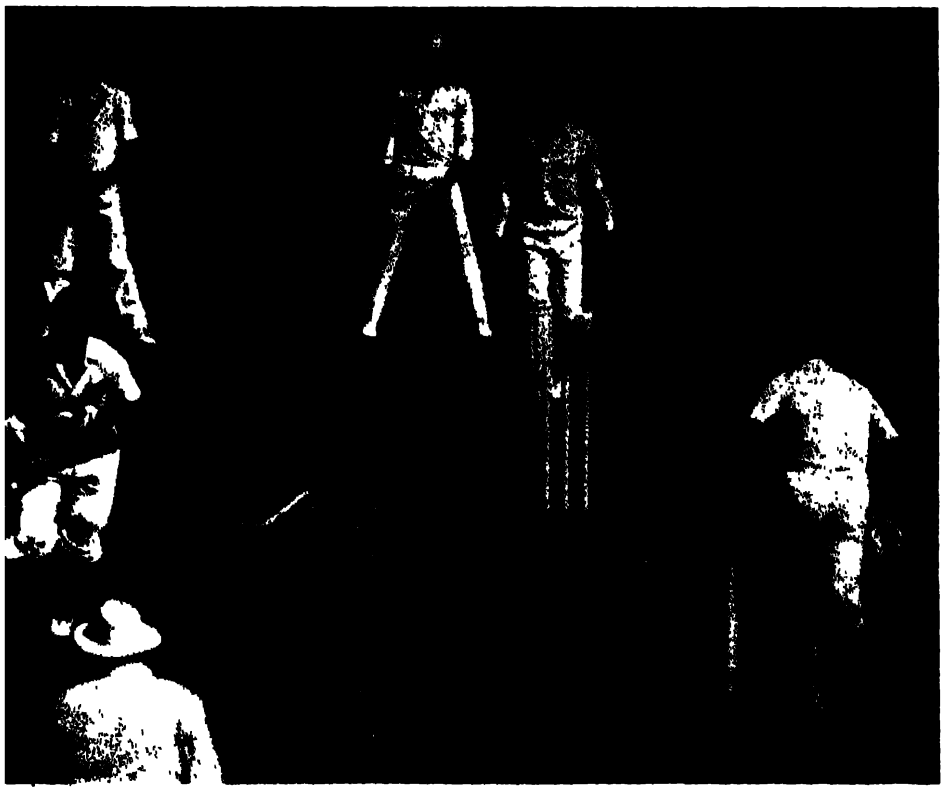
Said Srikkanth· "Yesterday Fletcher declared so I thought I should give them a sporting chance It's not a tournament and I was just doing my bit to keep the game alive"

Fletcher switched around the batting order not only to give his batsmen who did not get to bat in the first innings a chance but also because he was keen to have a go at the target of 301

David Gower and Mike Gatting opened the innings. The offensive began at the fall of Gatting's wicket. Gatting fell for 42 in a score of 77 From the moment he arrived, Ian Terrence Botham did not disguise his intentions He clouted the bowling far and wide. The power and control of his shots were simply amazing The fact that all nine fielders were on the boundary line did not deter him His five sixes and ten fours provided ample proof of this Not that it was needed, but Botham made it But the under-22 team have only themselves to blame Botham was dropped at one by Gurhsaran off Maninder and next



Emburey to Rajesh Dani



Boycott takes a singles off Ghai

when he had just crossed the 50 mark by wicketkeeper Vishwanath off Sinha The partnership between Botham and Gower was producing nearly 15 runs an over

Botham hooked a no ball from Sinha and though Dani took the catch inside the boundary line he ran with the ball in his hand yards outside the white marking and umpire Hanumanth Rao forgot to signal the boundray The batsmen ran just one and had the boundary been declared Botham would have got his hundred as he fell two short of the century mark

David Gower played an admirable foil to Botham A four now and then and a single to give Botham the strike spoke of the major role played by Gower in carving out an English victory Gower was tragically run out when Graham Dilley lost track of who was the senior batsman England romped home with four overs to spare

Obviously, the under 22 bowling and fielding had cracked under the pressure The onslaught by Botham and Gower had thrown utter confusion in their ranks

Fletcher remarked "Graham Dilley bowled a good quick spell on the third day Srikkanth is a good bat. Gursharan is very sound and has the right temperment."

Pix: NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

C. K. NAYUDU TROPHY

North still rich in talent

THIS year's C. K Nayudu Trophy under-22 inter-zonal championship was yet another forum for the North to display the rich cricket talent it has in this age group They duly won the trophy, defeating Central Zone in the four-day final by virtue of a massive first innings lead of 207 runs The Central batting came into its own only in the second innings, but by then the match was reduced to one of mere statistical interest

Chandu Borde, the national youth selection panel chairman, after closely watching the "colts" in the 12-day tournament, announced the team to play against the visiting Englishmen at Pune Four of the lads who found favour belonged to the North A fifth who deserved a place—opening batsman Navjyot Singh Sidhu of Punjab—was not chosen because he was not available for the tournament and the selectors had no chance to watch him Sidhu, who was one of the successful players of the last under 22 tour of England, was busy with commitments for his Patiala school One hopes Borde and his colleagues will not forget the youngster totally The four north players chosen were batsmen Deepak Chopra and Gursharan Singh, quick bowler Rajinder Singh Ghai and left arm slow Maninder Singh. All but Ghai are from Delhi Ghai, who first hit the headlines playing against the touring Pakistani youth team three seasons ago, is from Jullundur

Delhi's record of contributing three players to Ravi Shastri's under-22 squad was also matched by Kanpur which is the home of opening batsman Shashikant Khandkar, opening bowler Vishwajit Sinha and off-spinner Gopal Sharma, who needs no introduction to the followers of the game.

Captaining North Zone, Deepak Sharma, with a steady 96, helped his team pile up a formidable 467, which also included knocks of 87 by stylish Gursharan Singh, 58 by Rajinder Singh and 75 not out by Ghai, who, of late, has also developed into a useful bat Ghai had earlier made 43 against South in a rain-affected semi final to show the improvement he has achieved in this department

Central Zone, for whom Khandkar (59) and Yusuf Ali (60) partnered in a century (110) stand for the first wicket, lost to Maninder Singh, who ran through the innings with his left-arm spin bowling to come out with figures of six for 77 All out for 260 in the first innings, Central were 376 for three when they declared their innings with three mandatory overs remaining Parvez Ahsan Khan and Sanjay Mudkavi were batting with 157 and 110 Both these boys should be in the news more often in future

East Zone's Rajesh Dani began the tournament with a century against Central on the opening day of their quarter-final match It was a masterly innings of 142 which helped East reach a total of 290 This respectable score was overtaken by Central, whose 299 included a top score of 98 by Yusuf Ali and an exciting last wicket stand of 41 between Deb Rash (25 not out) and Vyas (16) Even if Dani's innings did not help East win, the impression it created on the selectors was lasting enough for them to remember the player when they met several days later to select the team for the Pune match

In the rain spoiled semi finals North overwhelmed South and Central tossed West out The toss was ordered because neither team could complete their first innings The highlight of this match was a century by Khandkar

The small band of faithfuls continued to turn up at the final at Ferozeshah Kotla in spite of the action taken by the Land and Development Officer of the Union Works Ministry by sealing the buildings and taking over the ground The officer cited violation by the Delhi and Districts Association of a certain clause in the lease agreement as the reason for the action But cricket went on, as it, hopefully, will do in the days ahead The matter is in the High Court which gave a stay order on a writ by the DDCA

The work of Borde and his colleagues on the youth selection committee has just begun They will meet again later in the season to select about 20 boys for the national youth camp under H R Adhikari Many youngsters who were unable to get the nod for a place in the team for the Pune match will find themselves in the list for the camp As for Adhikari, the colonel will not be disappointed with the material sent up to him to be polished and groomed



Gursharan Singh



Ghai

Scores

Quarter-final East 290 (Kalyan Dhal 28, Pronob Dev 20 Rajesh Dani 142, V Sinha 4 for 81 A Assawa 3 for 73) and 141 for 3 (Dani 21, C Biswal 71, R P Singh 2 for 23)

Central 299 (Yusuf Ali 98, S Anand 52, R P Singh 32, Deb Rash 25, A Bhattacharya 5 for 87, I Chatterjee 2 for 68, G Shome 2 for 56)

Semi-Final: South 128 (Abdul Azeem 32, S Vishwanath 30, R. S Ghai 3 for 43, Deepak Sharma 3 for 21, Maninder Singh 3 for 25) and 53 for 6 (R S Ghai 4 for 18, Gurpreet 2 for 6)

North 253 (Deepak Sharma 38, Gurpreet 24, Amarjeet 67, Rajbinder Singh 28, R. S. Ghai 43, Khanvilkar 4 for 48, L. Shivaramakrishnan 3 for 85).

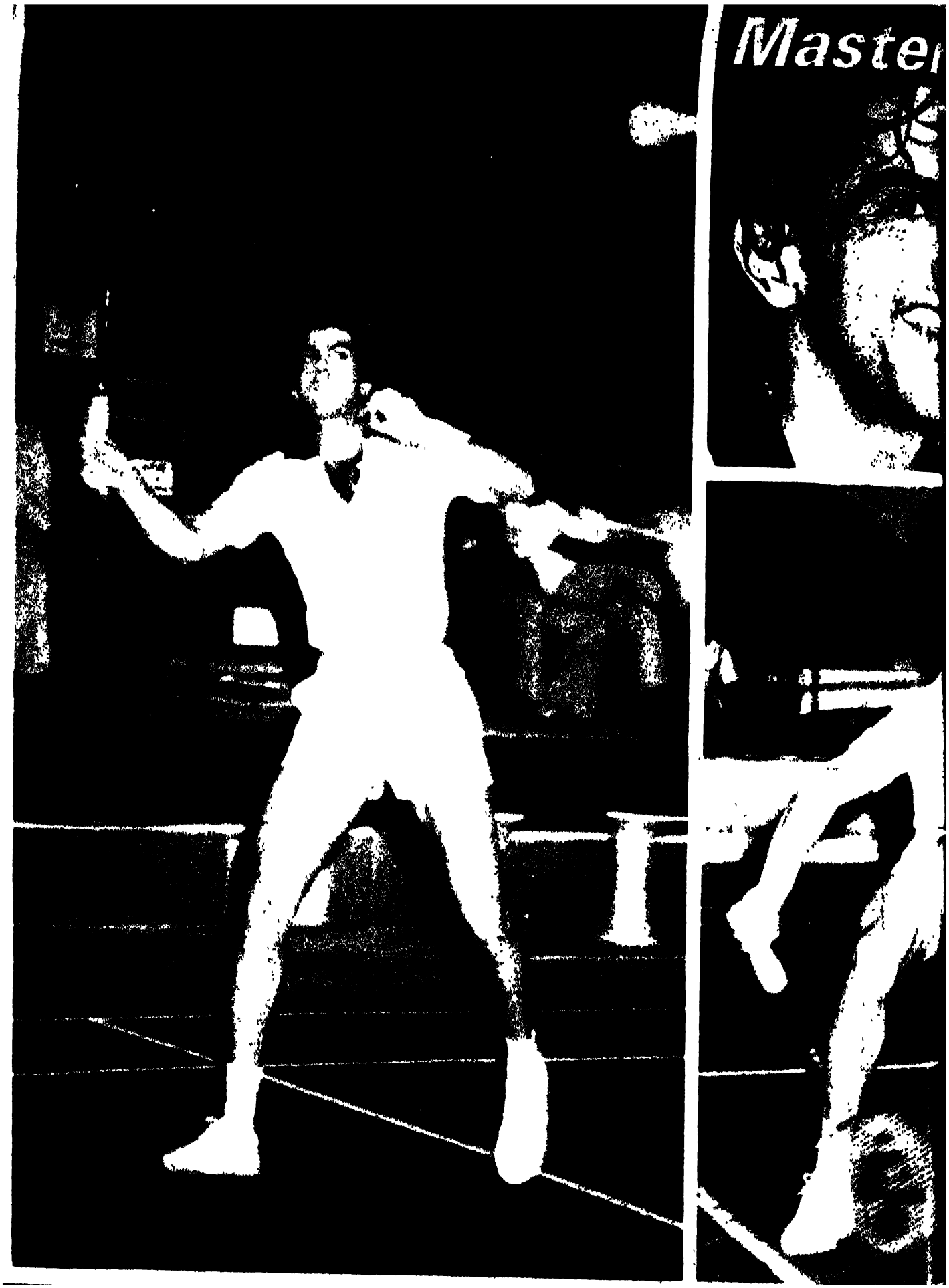
Central 183 (S. Khandkar 103, S. Mudkavi 22, Amar Petwala 5 for 42, Sunil Gudge 3 for 86)

West 103 for 7 (S Kshirsagar 46 not out, V Sinha 2 for 34, Gopal Sharma 3 for 25)

Final: North 467 (Deepak Sharma 96, Rajesh Rai 28, Amarjeet 26, Gursharan Singh 87, Rajinder Singh 58, R. S. Ghai 75 not out, V Sinha 5 for 116, M. A. Ansari 2 for 104)

Central 260 (S. Khandkar 59, Yusuf Ali 60, Parvez Ahsan Khan 43, Maninder 6 for 77) and 376 for 3 decl (S. Khandkar 29, Yusuf Ali 65, Parvez Ahsan Khan 157 not out, S Mudkavi 110 not out.

A CORRESPONDENT


Master


rakash

How I won the Masters

PRAKASH PADUKONE

Before I left Copenhagen to play in the World Cup at Kuala Lumpur last month, my coach Svend Carlsen told me that this year I had been the runners up at three major tournaments In the Danish Open I lost to Morten Frost Hansen, at the All-England, King beat me and at the Masters Luan Chin was the winner Carlsen further told me that if I could not win at Kuala Lumpur, it would affect me psychologically He gave the example of hens They always move about in the same order If once a particular hen is second, it will forever be second Carlsen said that should not happen to me He said, "If you keep losing to other players in the final, your confidence will be affected"

At Kuala Lumpur, though there were both men's and women's sections, the competition in the men's section was bigger There were four groups with four players in each group Malaysia's Sidek Yang Kesan, the Chinese Junior Champion and Sten Fladberg were in my group Sidek had beaten me at the London Masters last year So I was a bit cautious I won against all these three players to top the group

In the semi-final, I was to play against Chen Chang Ji of China. Chen had beaten me at the World Games in July in the semi-finals That was the first time the Chinese players were participating in an international competition. Chen is a very attacking player. As he had won the last encounter at the World Games in Santa Clara only at 18-14, 18-16, the pressure was on him. At Kuala Lumpur I was returning well. I was moving about well and was able to catch the shuttle high. This meant that he could not smash very often and it was his main weapon I won 15-8, 15-6. In the other semi-final Han Jian beat Hadyanto.

I beat Jian at the Masters in London My game clicked at Kuala Lumpur too, and I won 15-0 and 18-16. Before that I was not supposed to come to Bombay. But when I triumphed, I thought of stopping over in India to spend a few days After that I went to Copenhagen and trained for a fortnight I did some running Mainly we run in the forests I really enjoy running around the woods It is a pity we do not have them in India In Copenhagen the weather is dull and in winter, it is dark for the most part of the day So I look forward

Powerful return by Ivana



to jogging It is quite interesting. The air is fresh and the ground is soft—so it is easy on the legs. If you run on the hard roads, like the ones in India, it can be tough for the legs. Of course, Copenhagen is very cold but it is not boring.

There is no particular time for my running It depends mainly on when Carlsen is free. By profession Carlsen is a dentist So, whenever he is not busy, we run. We meet once a week to discuss the next week's programme and measure the performances recorded We also talk about my important tournaments and when I should reach my peak form Another thing that we do is to sprint for an hour We sprint for four minutes at a time, then take rest for half a minute, and resume once again We do this about 12 times

Of course, I practise badminton too Twice a week I play with Morten, once a week with a Swedish player and with the No 1 player of Norway Every Tuesday and Thursday I play with the members of my club I do this because I think it is very important to practise with various types of players Otherwise, if you practise with one player only, you can become stereo-typed

AFTER going back to Copenhagen I played in two local tournaments and an exhibition match in Belgium In Sweden, one day the well-known pop group, Abba, asked me to have tea with them I have always been fond of their music They want me to play a badminton match in Sweden

After two days of holiday in Bangalore I arrived at Pune on the eighth of November. I had two practice sessions before the tournament began. My first match was against Ray Stevens. All the players on the first day found the shuttles very fast. We were using the RSL shuttles which are the best But, I understand why the English company that manufactures these shuttles is closing down. They have a big stock and are now not very careful about controlling the quality of their products. All the players suggested to the organisers that they should expose the shuttles to sunlight or a strong electric lamp. This way the moisture would be absorbed and the bird would slow down. I also suggested that the feathers be bent slightly. This would open the shuttle a bit more and would offer greater resistance to the air which would automatically slow it down. Of course, as a result of this the shuttle would not last long, but the main point was that it must have the correct speed and all the players should be able to play their natural game.

The issue of withdrawals

[illegible] sports events in [illegible] Masters-Open badminton tournament also saw [illegible] withdrawals of [illegible] players: Morten Frost Hansen, [illegible] Koppen, Luan Chin, [illegible] and Kevin Jolly [illegible]. The President of the Patna District [illegible] Association and Tournament Director, A S Wardekar said: "The only thing that really upset me is the pull-out of Morten Frost Hansen. His reason for doing so was totally unconvincing. He said he had to appear at some examinations. Surely, he was aware of the dates of the examinations before confirming his entry for the tournament. Luan Koppen and Kevin Jolly have pulled out on medical grounds. I think anyone can get hurt or fall ill, and in that sense I am satisfied with the reasons advanced by these two".

"As for the two Chinese players, it is like this. A few days before the tournament we received a list from our counterparts in China and the only top player for the men's section included was Han Jian", added Wardekar. "When we found that Frost Hansen, Leon Koppen and Kevin Jolly were not coming what we had said was that now we would try and get Luan Chin and Zhang Ailing, so that the event does not lose its glamour. Somehow or other the Press got the impression that the Chinese players were supposed to come, but they called off at the last minute. We clarified the actual situation to the Press as early as possible. Frost Hansen was the only player to let us down".

However, a member of the Chinese delegation maintained that the tournament organisers had specifically asked for Han Jian only. When asked if he was satisfied with the quality of the entry list, Wardekar, 49, replied: "The Indonesians have decided not to expose Liem Swie King. The Korean girl Sun Ai Hwey has not been playing for the last four months. The Japanese players had their country's Nationals clashing with our tournament and consequently they could not come. Koppen, Jolly and Frost Hansen pulled out. As you can see, we did sincerely try to bring all the top players. We are offering the big prize money of £ 14,000. Naturally, we would like the best players to come".

"The tournament committee is now planning to take action against Frost Hansen, since it is not satisfied with the reasons of his withdrawal" Wardekar revealed. "Definitely, Frost Hansen's pull-out at the last minute caused us a lot of complications. On the basis of his confirmation we advertised his name. The tournament committee is going to take up this matter very strongly with the Badminton Association of India with a request that a complaint be lodged with the Danish Association. Let me assure you Frost Hansen will not get away with this.

HARISH MUNWANI

Ladies doubles winners—England's Nora Perry and Jane Webster

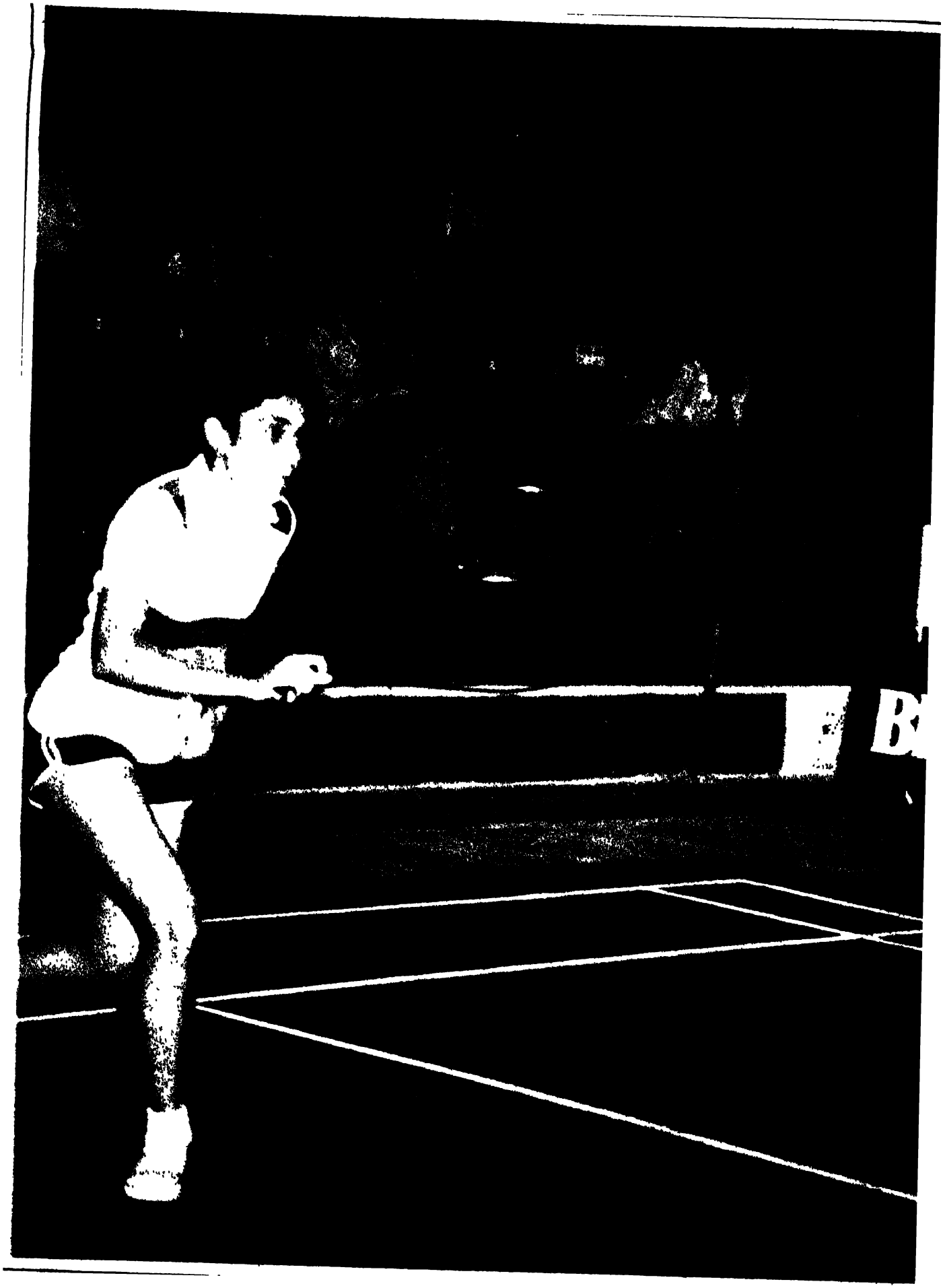


Against Stevens I took time to settle down. I was a bit slow. He was leading 5-1, but at that stage I found my touch. He won only one point after that. The final score was 15-6, 15-5 in my favour. As the scores suggest, I was playing much better in the second game. Next day I played against Thomas Khilstrom of Sweden.

At the London Masters in September, he stretched me to three games. I won the first game at 15-7, but found that on many occasions my shots were going over the line Since I rely on accuracy and touch, this worried me. It was only after I changed sides and played the first point that I realised that there was a slight draught in the stadium. Unlike in other stadia, I could not detect where it was blowing from, but it was there all the time.

Off hand it was difficult to pinpoint, but at times the bird was travelling fast and the baseline errors took place more often than is expected of top players. I don't think Khilstrom was aware of it, because he was upset by his numerous errors which gave me a 11-2 lead. He was angry and disgusted. He still thought that the shuttles were fast. At one stage he gave his racket to a linesman and asked him to show how he should play Finding him upset, I went and told him that there was nothing wrong with the shuttles. It was the wind that was the cause of his errors He seemed greatly relieved, but still lost the game 2-15

The next day was a rest day for me. But sometimes a rest day can have its side effects too. In my match against Jens Nierhoff, I found myself too slow in the beginning No doubt, he played very well. He has a hard smash But my problem was that I just could not get going. I was slow and that caused a lot of difference in my game I was reaching the toss or the drive late and, to add to my problems, he was good and fast at the net He was smashing really well If I tossed, he was smashing with telling effect As a result, I lost the confidence to toss I was reluctant because he was winning the points. I was, somehow or other, giving it to him at midcourt, which made it even easier for him to smash I just could not control the shuttle and sent it to the baseline. I was sluggish on the flanks too. I would have liked to make rallies and make him run, but as I was not getting my correct length, he was finishing off the rallies at midcourt. I felt bad about losing to him and was growing disappointed. I analysed the defeat and realised that the problems originated from my slow movement on the court. Yet I made it to the final from my group because both my other victories were in straight games, while Khilstrom had been stretched to three games by Ray Stevens. It is natural for any player that once he reaches his peak form, the downward trend starts sooner or later after he gets an off day. I was at my best in Kuala Lumpur and Nierhoff got me on my bad day. The ideal thing would be to take a rest day after you





Ladies singles champion Zheng Yuli leaps for a return to Ami Ghia in the final

had attained your peak, but I cannot do this because in between matches in the big tournaments I have to play for my sponsors I am a licenced player and I am not complaining, but I have commitments at the same time This however, is not to blame my sponsors.

Sidelights

Zhang Yuli who won the ladies' event at the Indian Masters, is just eighteen and she is not even *Numero Uno* in China That credit belongs to Zhang Ailing.

* *

Rudy Heryanto and Kartono, the men's doubles specialists who hail from Indonesia, are both 27 years old. Kartono is originally from Java while Heryanto is from Jakarta. They came together after they were picked by the national association for further training at the National Badminton Training Centre at Jakarta They have been playing together for four years now This year at the All-England Championships they won the title beating six-time winners of the title, Tjun Tjun and Wahjudi Heryanto said that "any doubles team should play a lot together so that they get used to each other Also, they must have good sparring partners."

* *

A few of the touring English cricketers watched the last two days play at the tournament. Among those who were present were John Lever, Derek Underwood, Graham Gooch, Bob Taylor and Bernard Thomas, the Assistant Manager Trust our over-zealous officials to announce on the public address system that the "great white men" had condescended to sit with us. For God's sake why do we have to fall over each other to please foreigners? They do not expect to be treated differently. It is we who pamper them

* *

After Prakash had won the last point to clinch the title, he threw up his arms in customary fashion—an action that has now come to be accepted as the done thing when you win the title And shouted, 'Yahoo'

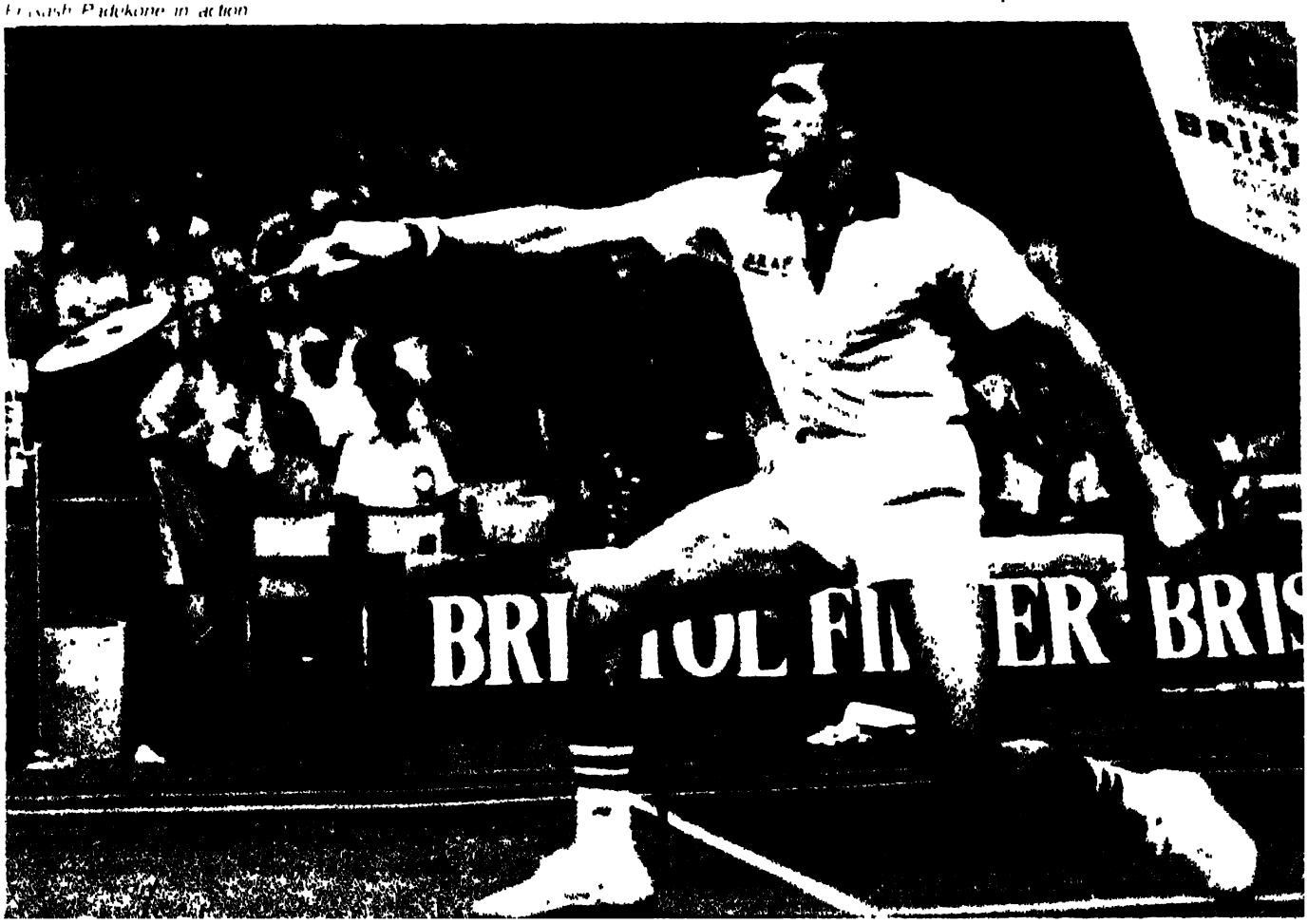
Then he came off court and touched his father's feet It was the first time the Padukones were watching their son win a major tournament

HARESH MUNWANI

Liem Swie King trains throughout the year with one goal in mind—winning the All-England title After playing here he takes four months off and then his coach starts all over again

THE best match of the tournament was the semi final encounter between Han Jian and Hadyanto I think

Prakash Padukone in action



The players

HAN JIAN comes from the province of Liao Ning in North China. Born on June 6, 1956 Jian took to badminton only at the age of 17. "No one played badminton in the province because it was very cold. Our province had never participated in the Nationals and consequently the game was not popular in the province", said Jian.

"Early on I used to play football, table tennis and basketball. When I took up badminton I realised that because of playing the other games I did not have the right physical fitness. To play badminton you have to be strong. If you have the stamina you will be selected. And so the chances of being selected are very good", informed Jian. "For my first tournament I trained just 15 days. I played in our country's Nationals in 1973. By 1977, I was ranked third in China". Jian, who is 169 cm tall, is superbly fit. He says in broken English: "Our country is very big and the only time you meet the other players is at major competitions Every province has good players We do the same training as the other players in the world." Jian who has a sports degree from the university considers Liem Swie King as the best player. "Today, nobody can win all the tournaments Sometimes you are not well, sometimes you are hurt. But King is above the others. Luan Chin, Chen Chang Ji, Prakash, and Frost Hansen are one class below King. Prakash is a good player, but has beaten King only once. I do not want to say anything about myself. But, for the record, I have beaten King twice".

* *

THE Danish girl Kristen Larsen asked for a postponement of her match with India's Ami Ghia as she was ill. The Chief Referee granted the request. But, obviously, there was a difference of opinion among the BAI officials in this regard.

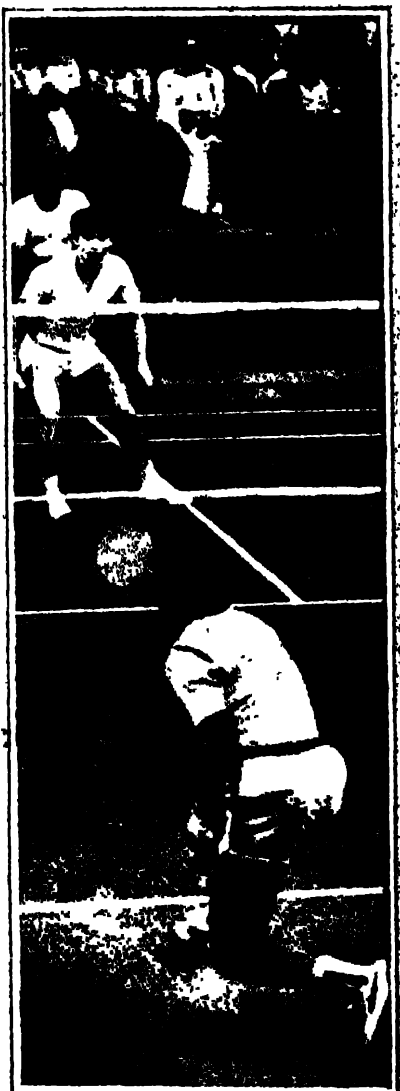
One school of thought informed that earlier when the Indians approached Larsen asking if she would like to play her match on Friday as Ami Ghia had to play three matches on, Thursday and none on Friday, the Danish girl refused But a few hours later when Larsen reported sick, the Indians accommodated her. Some officials thought that since it was a prize money tournament, if one was unwell he should give a walkover.

On the other hand was the reasoning that the Chief Referee was satisfied with the medical reports and gave the postponement order without consulting Ami Ghia.

WU DIXI of China [illegible] and all with her serve, told Englishman Ray Stevens: "I don't think I have ever seen this kind of serve in any badminton match. To describe it I suppose you could call it an upright spin service. What happens is that when the player is receiving this serve, the shuttle comes to him inverted. In other words, the cork of the shuttle is away from the racket when landing on the other side of the net. It's quite some time before you can read such a service".

* *

THE petite Lie-Ing Ho Ivana has an impressive track record. In 1980, she reached the finals of the Danish Open, Swedish Open and the Jakarta World Champions Cup. In 1981, she was the runner-up in the Swedish Open and Kuala Lumpur. The same year, she reached the semi-finals of the All-England Badminton Championship.



Mo[illegible] [illegible] Facing camera is [illegible] versus Hadyanto

[illegible] Indian Ladies Badminton [illegible] and Danish Open) [illegible] I registered two victories against my compatriot Wilma Yuwinsky at the South-East Asia Games and in New Zealand", said Ivana, continuing, "But against the Korean girl Sun Ai Hwang I lost in two games in the finals of the 1981 Swedish Open and in three games in the 1981 All-England tournament".

Twenty-one-year-old and 159 cm from head to toe, Ivana said: "I first played badminton at the age of 12 in the city of Bandung. Sian Sugiarso coached me. By 14, I was playing in club competitions. My game improved and I joined the National Training Centre in Jakarta. We have four talent scouts in Rudy Hartono, Kristain, Minarni and Jauhari who go to tournaments to watch young talent.

"If I am to win more often I will have to concentrate harder, be patient and relaxed in the games. But I am learning and the experience should prove useful". Ivana opined, "The Indian girls don't train as hard as they should be doing. Sun Ai Hwang has wonderful stamina and strokes. She is very strong too".

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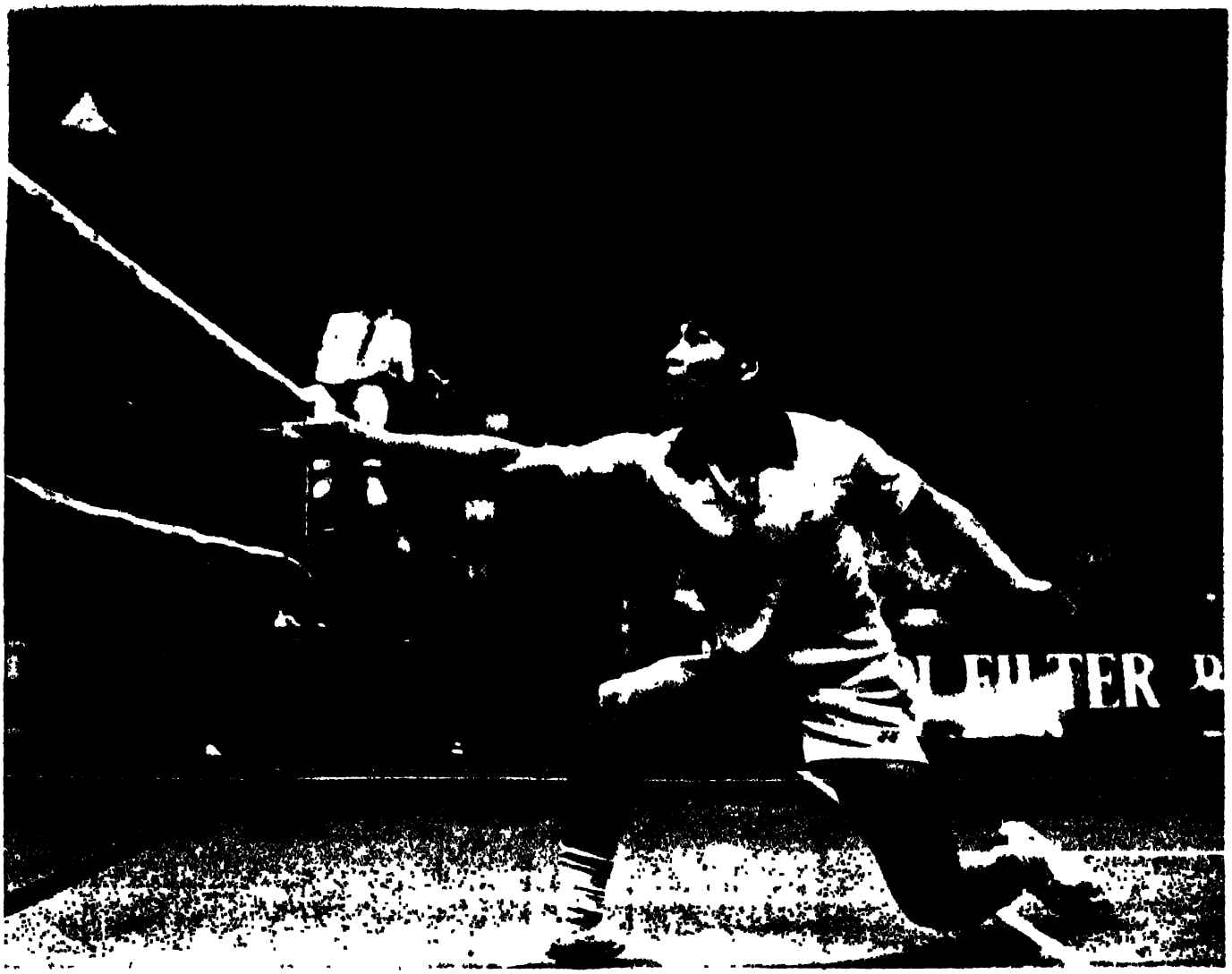


Nierhoff caused an upset beating Prakash

NIERHOFF, who created the biggest upset of the week when he defeated Prakash Padukone in straight games, said: "I had nothing to lose. Prakash was the champ in front of his home crowd and was under pressure. I think he was a bit tense. This game was tentative."

Nierhoff, ranked second in Denmark behind Frost Hansen further said: "My strategy was to smash as much as possible and at the same time use allow Prakash to smash. This paid off in the early stages. Prakash never really got back into the game. I kept telling myself that I must hang on to the lead until I was conscious of Prakash's reputation in the badminton circuit".

HARESH MUNWANI



China's Han Jian in action against Prakash Padukone in the men's singles final

if you are talking about quality of badminton, it was a good example But if one were to go by the scores, the final would be the automatic choice. Indonesia's Hadyanto started in great fashion He was aggressive He was creating the openings for smashing. But his problem was that he could not maintain the consistency He ran out of steam In the second game he was leading 14-11, only to lose the game eventually

Han Jian is a born fighter and is very cool He has a simple game and has a set pattern of playing irrespective of the man on the other side of the net He has a strong and deceptive overhead Particularly his overhead crosscourt drop or smash, is lethal If you dribble at the net with Jian and then he dribbles and if you dribble again, Jian will lift the shuttle Hadyanto knew this and took full advantage of it All the time the Indonesian was looking for the opening to dribble and then smash Jian's high shuttle Han Jian is very quick and consistent. But he finds it difficult to vary the game But he is fit and fast And this is where he scores over his opponents by wearing them down Jian relies on solidity If things are not going his way, there is very little he can do about it

For the final, I had decided I was not going to sleep too long—just in case I was going to be sluggish I had eight hours of sleep I went for a walk I wanted to go and have some practice at the stadium As usual, I started slowly I was reaching the shuttle a bit late. I was always a little behind the shuttle when I wanted to toss or dribble It was a fast-paced first game. Jian won 15-9 I could not change the pattern I remembered on our previous match in the Masters at London. That time he won the first game 15-11 and it was the first time I was playing him Then I started serving low and that paid dividends Over here I resorted to the same tactic I slowed down the pace and with everything coming flat and low to him, he was immediately on the defence. Compared to his backhand, Jian's forehand is vincible I began exploiting this theory

With the score 6-1 in my favour, it became apparent to me that my game had achieved rhythm I began serving flat, forcing him near the net Next, I would dribble and then invariably Jian would lift the shuttle and I would push it down. My tactics paid off With him on the defence, my overall game picked up But this was not my natural game This day I smashed more than I normally do. When I trounced him at Kuala Lumpur, I think I was more positive in my play But he is a great fighter He hung on tenaciously From 8-1 in the last game he climbed to 14-8 and then to 14-12 I think there was a change-over of service seven times. I was in a hurry to finish the match and he saved seven match points Finally, in a rally I smashed to his forehand and he missed

I was very excited and this was my home crowd It was a great relief My friends and family members were always reminding me that I must win because it would be the first win they would be watching All this time, they had heard and read about my triumphs in major tournaments This was an added pressure on me Since I had won the All England title, this was my first big win in India

The tournament was very well organised The facilities were excellent Now, I will be going back to Copenhagen to play in the Scandinavian Masters in November

Pics Nikhil Bhattacharya

WORLD POWERLIFTING

Americans still the best

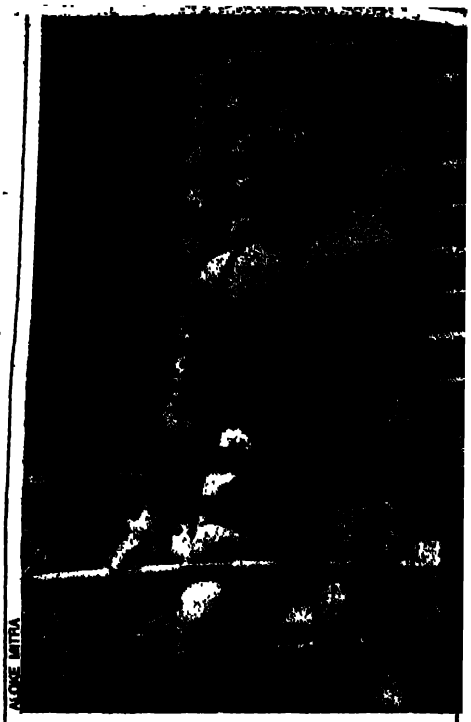
MANOJIT BASU, president of the Indian Powerlifting Federation, reports on the championship

THIS is the first time that the World Powerlifting Championships have been held in the eastern hemisphere of the world. As an appointed organisational leader of the recently held Worlds at Calcutta's Netaji Indoor Stadium, I like to express my gratitude to all well-wishers, lovers of this discipline and other organisations connected with us in making this meet a grand success. Thus a long cherished dream of fostering the development and interest in powerlifting in Asia has been fulfilled.



ALOKE MITRA

Paul Wrenn (USA) being assisted by his wife before the squat event



ALOKE MITRA

This is the dead lift

I cannot also remain oblivious of the generosity of both the State and Central Governments in sanctioning grants-in-aid. Though the Government of West Bengal (Sports Branch) has provided us with the Netaji Indoor Stadium it has also charged us Rs. 35,000—Rs. 5,000 per day for a period of four days plus a security deposit of Rs. 15,000.

I was intimated by the Sports Branch that the State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.5 lakh for World Powerlifting, but surprisingly enough, the money has not yet to come. On the otherhand, the Centre has sent a bank draft of Rs. 40,000 as part payment subject to the audit report for the remaining Rs. 10,000. The total cost of staging this championship was about Rs. 6 lakhs of which we are expecting to retrieve Rs. 4.5 lakhs.

I feel proud that our organisation had succeeded in its venture. But it would not have been possible to organise such a championship, had we not received good support from Tata Iron & Steel Company at the initial stage.

The opening ceremony of the championship was a brilliant one. Each team, with placard bearer (girl) and followed by flag bearer, marched into the stadium. I regret that the President of the International Powerlifting Federation, Victor Mercer of U.K., had to inaugurate the championship as no Government officials were present at the ceremony.

One novel feature of the Worlds is that dope testing has been introduced for the first time, and this has actually invalidated the claims of Joe Bradley

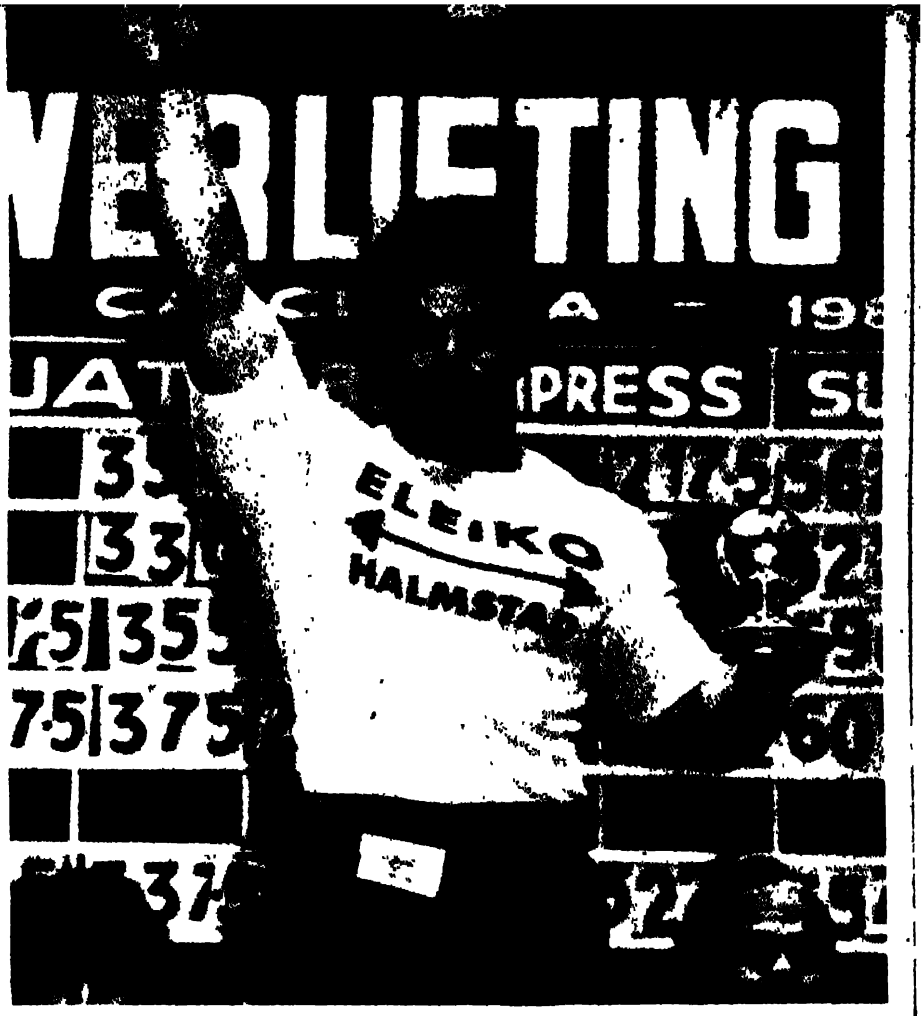
(U.S.A), Hiroyuki Isagawa (Japan) and Kullervo Lampella (Finland) to participate in any powerlifting championship for the next 12 months They have also been deprived of their medals and their records were also not considered

Records toppling in such types of meet are a common feature and the one at the Calcutta Worlds was no exception—five previous world records have been bettered Mike Bridges (U S A) in bench press and total, Hiroyuki Isagawa (Japan) in bench press and Joe Bradley (U S A) in squat and bench press.

Hideaki Inaba (Japan), who is seven times world champion in the 52 kg category put up a good performance and won the gold for the eighth time, but he could not surpass his previous record Chuck Dunber (U S A) who holds the world mark in bench press also could not overcome it

Though for the first time Japanese lifter Isagawa set up a new bench press mark in the 56 kg class and won the gold, yet he was unfortunately deprived of both the record and the medal because the dope test found him guilty Isagawa's disqualification enabled N Bhairo of England to occupy the second place and P J Joseph (India), who was originally in the fifth position, was promoted to fourth place

In the 60 kg class, Lamar Gant (U S A)—five times world champion—won the gold as usual but his performance was not up to the expectation As Joe Bradley (U S A) was out of the tournament, the second berth holder Steve Alexander (Great Britain)



Mike Bridges (USA) --best overall performance



U S coach (left) Jan Todd with Chuck Dunber the 52 kg champion

walked away with the gold in 75 kg. class, thus increasing his country's total points

Mike Bridges (U S A) who put up the best performance in the championship, occupied the top spot in the 82 5 kg class establishing a world total record of 945 kg. Ron Collins (Great Britain)—four times world champion—was eliminated from the championship as he failed in all his three squat attempts

In the 90 kg bracket, Walter Thomas, a Negro from New Orleans, participated after two years and won the gold The second and third positions were occupied by K Mattsson (Sweden) and Bill West (Great Britain), respectively Reijo Kivintha of Finland won the gold in 110 kg class with a total of 920 kg followed by his countryman Hannu Saarelinen

In 125 kg class, the 25 year-old American, Ernie Hackett wrested first place with a big margin of 962 5 kg. followed by Tom Magee (Canada) and Jon Pau Sigmarsson (Iceland) in second and third positions

The U S A achieved the rare honour for its overall performance as a team consecutively for three years followed by Great Britain and Finland Mike Bridges (U S A) was the best of all the participants

Sportsworld Serial

A great loss

In the third instalment of the book "Where do I go from here?" George Best recounts with the agony his mother went through for his behaviour. The book is published by Queen Anne Press Macdonald & Co., London and is priced £ 6.95

BY 1966, however, the newspapers were covering more than just Georgie Best's football career. The car accidents, however minor, were made to sound sensational If I hit someone, few newspaper reports if any would mention it happened in that half-light, half-dark period around lighting up time, or that a person, holding an umbrella low to keep off the driving rain, stepped from the pavement in front of the car which was moving slowly at the time "George Best knocks down pedestrian" had my mother on the phone in minutes, and she would then have to be reassured that everything was all right I wasn't going to be prosecuted and thrown in prison There was a rumour in 1968 that I'd been killed in a car crash It circulated like wildfire before I arrived back in Manchester to show it was a malicious hoax But for several hours my family had to live in uncertainty so, too, did the family of the girl I was driving home from London

Then the footballer became the playboy and every aspect of my private life was under scrutiny The football began to go sour around 1970 and the stories became sourer They struck my mother hardest, for I had always been her favourite, her first-born, and there was no way she could defend me now or attempt to protect me Telling her not to believe half of what she read was to no avail As mothers do, she turned my shortcomings into self-criticism, asking where she had gone worng and questioning her beliefs just as after the death of my grandfather, she grew very introspective, searching through her religion for a reason why he had been so suddenly taken

Nor did I help by staying away from home for long intervals At first I'd be back in Belfast every month, it seemed Then it was every three months; then every six And as the visits became less regular, so it became more difficult to return Or perhaps it was simply becoming easier not to return I could have written, but I didn't Even early on it was Mrs Fullaway who wrote to my mother with news of my welfare I remember telephone numbers but never birthdays Yet a birthday remembered takes on such importance, as does one that is forgotten My mother shouldn't have needed to phone Mrs Fullaway every week to see how I was, I should have been phoning her But, like my father, she didn't want to trouble me It was the same with money. The press knew before I did that my father had been on unofficial strike for seven weeks in 1970 with no money coming in except the social security and what my two eldest sisters could contribute At that time there were three young children to support So many times I told them they had only to pick up the phone, but I've come to realise that is not the same as being there to help out

In public, too, life was becoming more of a strain for my mother Where once the problem had been to cope with being a minor celebrity, she now had to bite her tongue as she listened to people around her running me down. Occasionally it became too much, as happened one night when she and my father were leaving their social club While my father waited to call a taxi, my mother went into the ladies' cloakroom where another woman, recognising her, asked if she was Mrs Best

Dick Best, George's father, some of his best advise—"take it without getting steamed up"—should have been heeded by George





George celebrating one of Manchester United's most famous victories winning the European Cup semi-final against Real Madrid after being down 3-2, and ultimately winning 4-3

"Yes", said my mother, trying to back out of the room as quickly as possible

"George Best's mother?" continued the woman, going up to her

"Yes", replied my mother, hoping she might want an autograph or a photograph the way many people did "I'm Mrs Best "

"Well", began the other, "I think your son's a disgrace to Ireland He's . "; and she laid into my mother with a full rundown of all my failings It was nothing new for my mother, but this time she snapped Up came her hand and she smacked the woman right in the mouth Immediately realising what she had done, she dashed from the clockroom in search of my father

"Dicky! Dicky!" she yelled at him "Jump into the taxi We've got to get away from here!"

They didn't go back to the club for weeks afterwards, but today my father laughs at the story and I wish I'd been there to see it

HOWEVER, I was so busy with—and creating—my own problems that I had little time for anyone else's. The irony of it was that, in seeking an escape from my own life through drinking, I was creating an image which was, in turn, causing my mother to find solace the same way. It was not immediately obvious, but as the 1970s progressed it became more so until, somewhere between 1972 and 1975

one of my aunts called on me to return home.

"We're getting worried about your mother", she told me. "She seems so depressed all the time, there's no get up and go about her any more Come home and talk to her."

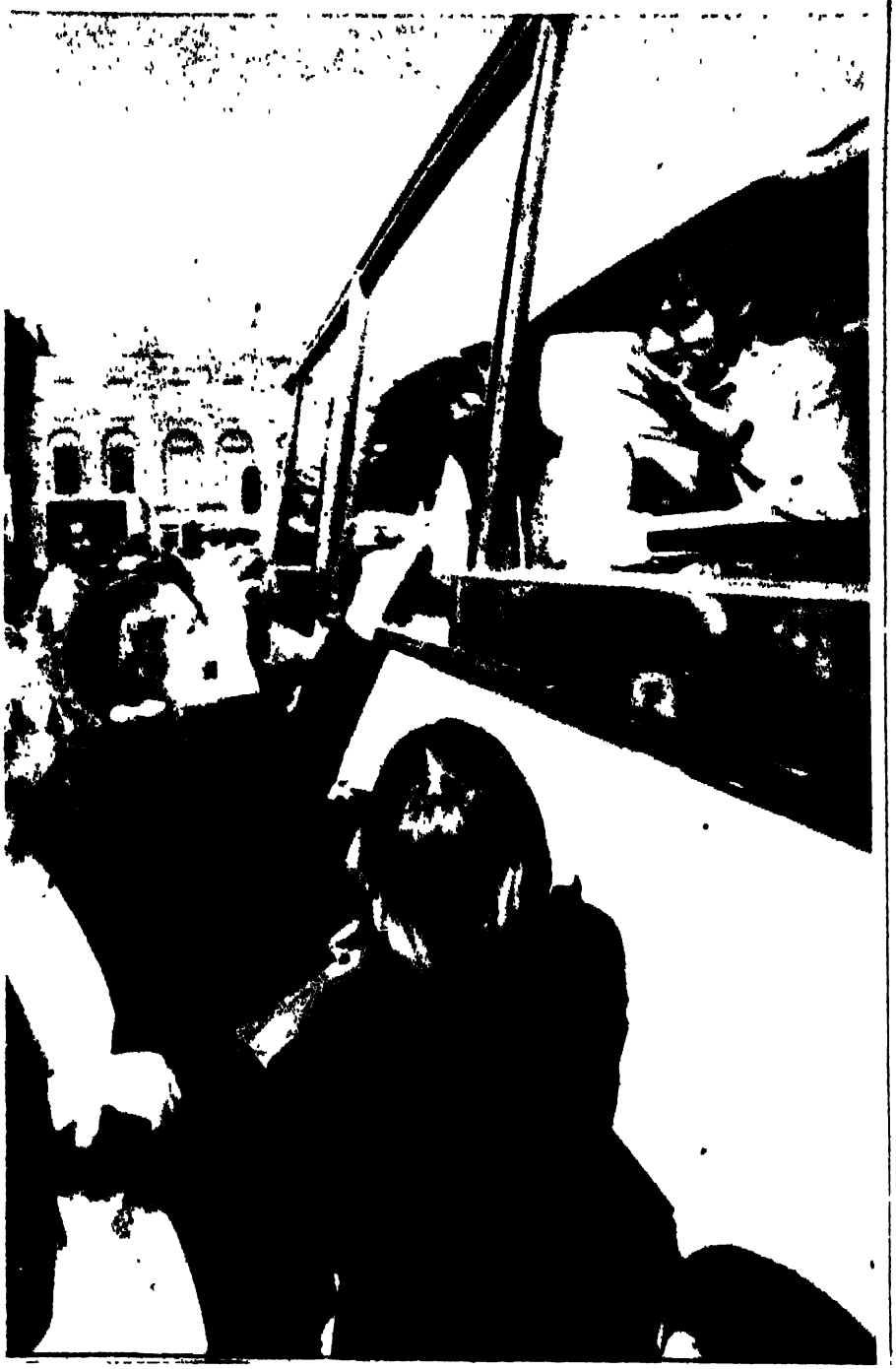
But I knew already, from what my sisters were telling me, that something was wrong. During the time I lived at home I had no recollection of my parents arguing Now, it seemed, they were My father would return home from work, my mother would have been drinking during the afternoon, something would be said, angry words spoken, and my father would go off for a few quiet drinks with his pals When he went home he'd find my mother in a worse condition She couldn't see what she was doing to herself, but then neither could I see what I was doing to myself And I was dragging both of us down

They put on a party when I went back, a get-together for most of the family Rather like the New Year's Eve parties of better days when the whole clan would gather in true Scottish tradition and there'd be home-made treats for the kids and a jolly singsong with much laughter and cheer This time the laughter and cheer were muted, and not just because of circumstances within our family Belfast was adjusting to the reality of everyday existence in the shadow of violence The armed troops, introduced we thought as a temporary measure, were now a regular feature of street life in the city

My mother's reaction on my return –tears, hugging and kissing—I took to be one of affection and relief at having me home But as the evening developed and members of the family arrived, she became teary, crying instead of joining in as she once would have I talked to her, trying to reassure her that I would always land on my feet Hadn't I always? But I was getting nowhere Every now and then she'd go off on her own and I knew she was having another drink Not that it cheered her up, it only served to make her more depressed Long before the evening was through she had ceased taking any interest in what I was saying She could only sit beside me, touching my arm or my hand and weeping

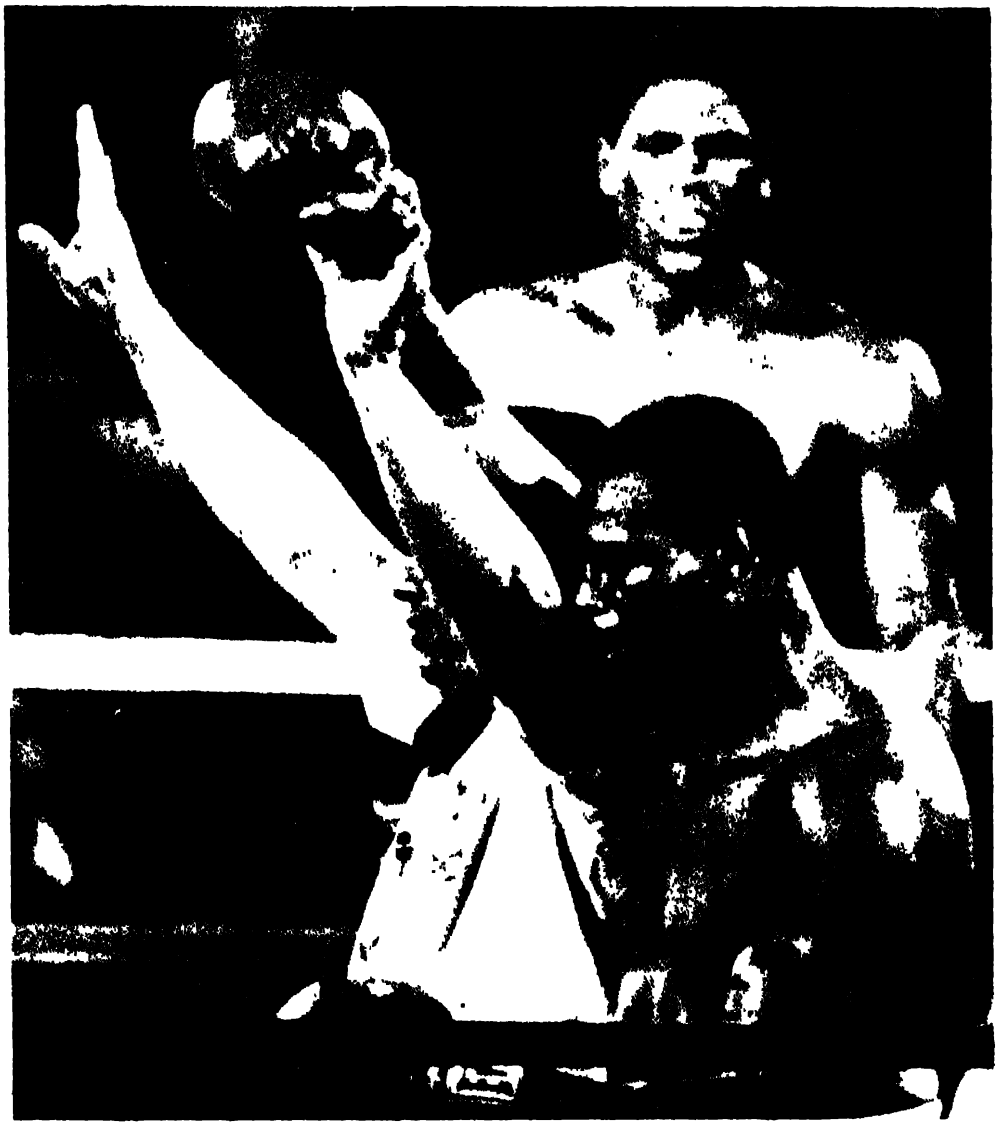
The next day, arriving back in Manchester, I felt so lost that I did what was now almost habitual opened a bottle of wine and drank it on my own before going in search of company Drink It's the Irish problem that transcends politics and religion And for so many in Northern Ireland today it's the only escape I'm sure my mother wasn't the only woman in Belfast drinking cheap wine in the afternoons and hiding the bottles from her family Many wives and mothers must see their husbands and children off in the morning and wonder what the evening will bring. For my mother there was, in addition to that worry, the concern of what was happening to me. I would have liked to take them away from Belfast, but by this time I had no proper home of my own I was living the life of a gypsy, trailing from one place to the next in search of something I couldn't define Eventually I left Manchester and went to America, putting myself even farther away from Belfast But the newspaper stories kept my family misinformed of my activities, and for every good story there were ten to break my mother's heart

My mother died in October 1978 She collapsed one morning after my father had left for work and was dead when my sister found her I was in Los Angeles at the time, though I'd been in Europe several weeks earlier, playing football I hadn't gone home to Belfast, and I didn't know there were newspaper reports saying I had disappeared during the tour Now it was too late, too late also for the pangs of conscience that would trouble me for years after "If only you'd been at home more, George, it wouldn't have happened" My aunt's words filled my mind all the way back to Los Angeles after the funeral And there, within weeks of my mother's death, I learnt I had been banned by FIFA, the world football authority, from playing anywhere in the world By playing several invitation matches for an American team in Europe I had, unknown to me, broken the terms of my registration I'd become an outlaw



Hi fans! Pop-star welcome for the 'fifth Beatle" after United's arrival in London for the European Cup final against Benefica

Month in pictures



Larry Holmes is awarded a technical knockout after the fight was stopped in the 11th round against Renaldo Snipes at Pittsburg

Former European light welterweight and welter champion Dave Green is down—and out of boxing soon after—in the second round of his 10-round light middleweight bout against Reg Ford of Guyana at London's Royal Albert Hall

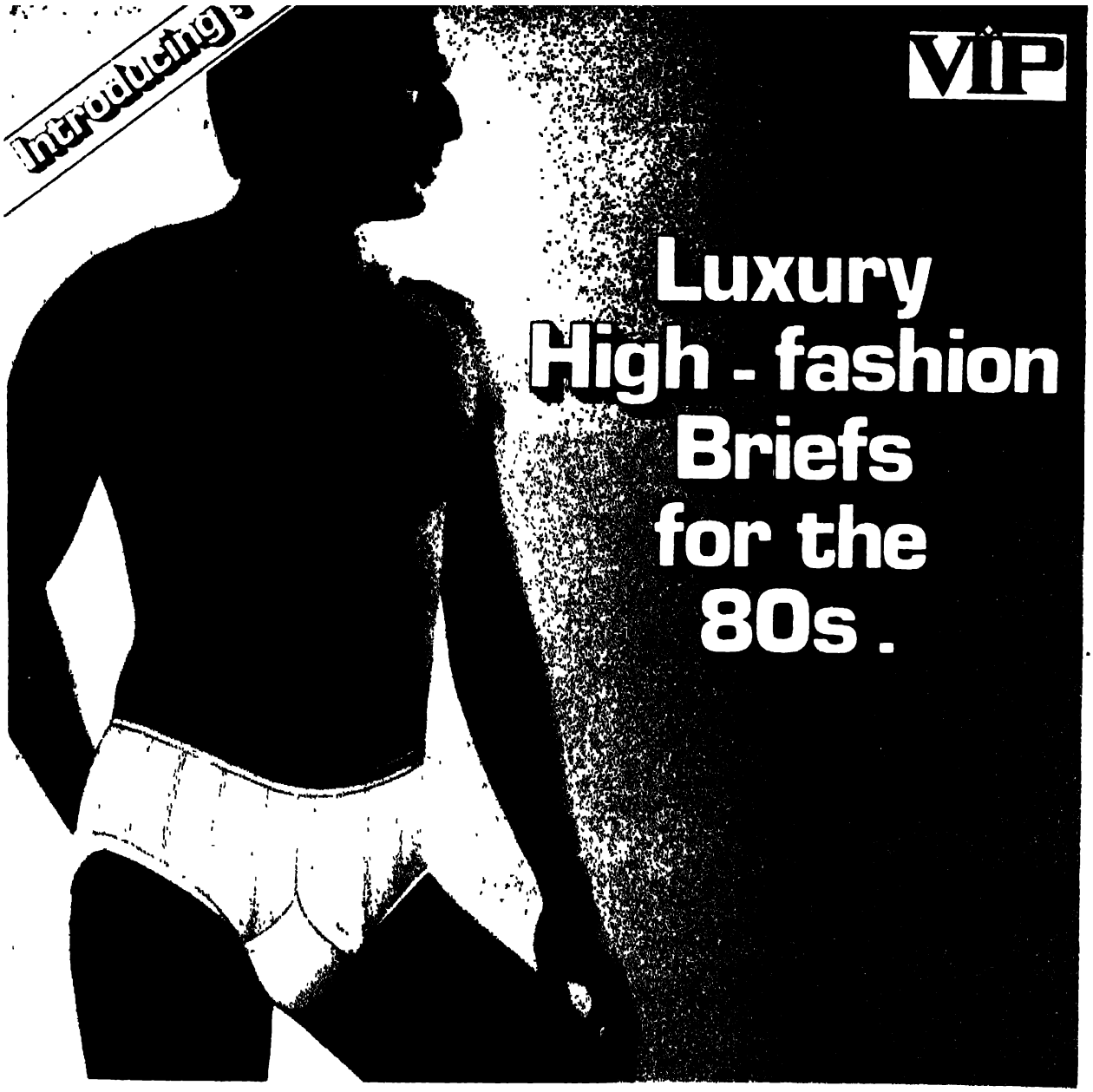


Alexandr Syzonenko (with the ball) of Stroytel Club in the city of Kuibyshev (USSR) is the tallest hoopster—2.37 metres (about 7ft. 6in.)

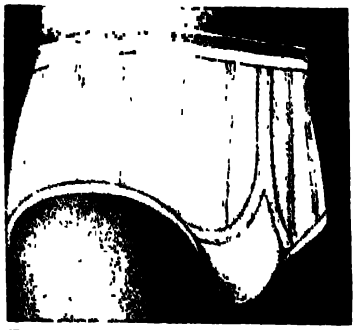


Ciambattista Marcolla, 26, fell during an attempt to break the world record on the roller skates at the Monza autodrome in Milan. However, later, when he resumed the race, he broke the record at an average speed of 177.339 kmph





The One-Up



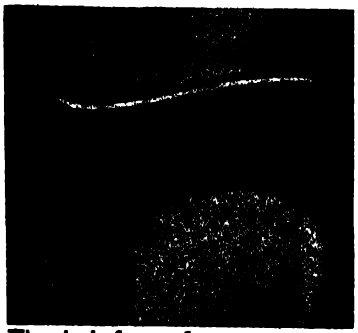
Elegance . . .
Sophistication . . .
Exquisite Shape . . .
Quality Fabric . . .
Fashionable
Waist-band . . .
VIP One-Up.

The Yankee



It's like no other!
Latest fashion
from America . . .
Thigh-hugging
trunks!
Total comfort for you
from VIP Yankee.

The Frenchie



The briefest of
Briefs.
The mood is
modern, the style
is very French.
The Underwear
is VIP Frenchie.

VIP Luxury Briefs. For the fashionable male.

CASHH-0243

Sportspeople

Bridge Personality of the year

DENG XIAO PING, the Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China was recently nominated for the Goren Award as the Bridge Personality of the year 1981 by the International Bridge Press Association Announcing the award, the IBPA said, "The Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Deng Xiao Ping, has long been very enthusiastic about the great intellectual game of contract bridge His interest in the game has set an example to the Chinese people, who are quickly finding that bridge playing can lead to international friendship through membership in the World Bridge Federation The International Bridge Press Association is proud to present him



Deng Xiao Ping

with the 1981 Charles Goren Award, which is given to the outstanding personality in the world of bridge"

On learning of his nomination for the award, Deng Xiao Ping sent a message to the IBPA expressing his gratitude for bestowing the honour on him and hoped that international competitions in the game would help strengthen the ties of friendship among the nations of the world He, however, expressed his regret that he would not be able to receive the award in person and requested Katherine Wei, the only world bridge champion of Chinese origin, (she won the ladies' pairs in 1978) to accept it on his behalf

But, most remarkable of all, and something so rare, China's inclusion in 1980 made the World Bridge Federation the first sports organization to have both China and Taiwan as members Moreover, bridge is the first game to see the Chinese and the Taiwanese players face to face playing in the recent inter-cities tournament in Hong Kong Speaking about the award, Mr Jaime Ortiz Patino, President of the World Bridge Federation, recalled the 36 rounds he played in partnership with Mr Deng during his visit to China last year He said that the Vice-Chairman played very fine bridge, seemed quite conversant with modern bidding and played in two different systems with ease

Moreover, Mr. Deng has made the game officially acceptable in the Chinese sports circles In today's China bridge is played in the sports halls along with other games like volleyball, basketball and table tennis Nearly 300 teams competed in a recent tournament in Beijing

Ramphal fights on

RAMPHAL of Rajasthan who won the lone gold medal for India at the first Asian Junior Wrestling championship at Hissar is an unassuming sportsman. Like most other sincere devotees, he attributes all his success to his guru Shivlal Grewal Ramphal won the 48 kg class gold, beating the reigning world school champion Ilanour of Iran In the title bout he proved technically better and swifter than his rival whom he held in his fold for most of the time

An employee of the Post & Telegraph Department at Jaipur, Ramphal started his campaign with an easy victory over Sohail Rashid of Pakistan and then turned his fight against Kahideaki of Japan into a one-sided affair, earning a point decision victory. It was one of his most memorable performances so far

Though the pundits of the game tipped the Iranian as the possible winner, Ramphal, who took to modern wrestling only recently started his bout on an aggressive note and literally immobilized his rival with his holds On the other hand, the Iranian could not plan his strategy well, but was surprised to hear the judgement of the referee who declared Ramphal the winner

It was a great day for the Jaipur boy From the mat he rushed towards his guru and touched his feet in gratitude.



Ramphal

A Harijan, he had his earlier training at Delhi under Chandgiram, but had to move to Jaipur for employment reasons. Today he trains regularly at the famous Pili Ka Akhara of the pink city In fact, he resides there and looks after the maintenance of the akhara. The akhara, however, does not possess modern facilities.

A class four employee he gets a very meagre salary and is unable to buy sufficient fruits which are a necessity for a wrestler Still he manages to fight at international level and win laurels.

Bhullar passes away

FORMER international and Olympian *Ajit Singh Bhullar* (45) died of heart attack recently at his native village Candella in Gurdaspur district. He was on deputation with the Punjab State Electricity Board as inspector of police. One of the most outstanding athletes India has ever produced, Ajit Singh received the Marshal Tito Award for his performance in the Railway Athletic meet in 1957



Ajit Singh Bhullar

Born on October 5, 1931, Ajit Singh Bhullar, who came of a family of farmers, joined the police in 1952. Right from then Bhullar showed enormous promise as an athlete.

He shot into news in 1953 after clearing 6 feet 5 inches in his first high jump attempt at the National Athletic championships One can gauge his prowess as an athlete by the fact that between 1953 and 1963—a full decade—he could hang on to his national record

Bhullar participated in the Manila Asian Games and set an Asian high jump record with a jump of 6 feet 5¼ inches. He further improved his performance in the 1955 Cuttack Nationals by clearing 6 feet 7 inches.

In 1956, Bhullar made his appearance in the Melbourne Olympics In the 1958 Asian Games at Tokyo, he once again donned India colours. He was also the first Indian athlete to do the GDR diploma.

News round-up

Dibyendu storms to the top

CALCUTTA: Lightning chess is not very popular in this country yet, mainly because of the unavailability of chess clocks here. The game is widely practised in many developed countries, especially in the U. S A.

Its advantage as a sport lies in the fact that, unlike the usually long chess game, it can be finished very quickly—normally within ten minutes. Each side, white and black, is given 5 minutes and if any player fails to make his move within the stipulated period, he loses the game. Thus a player, faced with inevitable mate, may still win the game if the flag of his opponent's clock falls.

There are, however, some additional rules governing lightning chess For example, a player loses a game if he makes any move that violates the rules of the game and his opponent points that out.

Players, good at normal five-hour games, are usually successful in lightning chess, because towards the end of the 5th hour, such long-session games often turn into some kind of lightning chess, with the players trying desperately to complete 40 moves before the flag falls

Moreover, younger people enjoy a certain advantage over the older generation in quick chess as by nature's law the ability to spot and remember the relation between squares and pieces and the state of material balance on the board is bound to decline with age. The older people can apply their wide knowledge and vast experience only in the usual form of slow chess.

Recently the Alekhine Chess Club conducted a lightning chess tournament at Calcutta, the second of its kind to be held in the city There were about 60 participants with 5 under-10's, 4 women and over 20 teenagers It included all the leading players of West Bengal except Ananda Kumar Ghosh who is away in China for the Asian Team championship and Niraj Kumar Mishra, the reigning Sub-junior national champion

In the preliminary stage 10 players were selected from the 60 by a six round Swiss They joined Dibyendu Barua for a final 10-round all-play-all tournament None of the women and under-10's qualified for the final stage, though, among the children, Soumen Banerjea narrowly missed the mark. Dibyendu proved his class again by winning with a perfect score of 10/10 It was a rejuvenation of his natural talent after the very poor show at the Sub-junior Nationals this year

The number of illegal moves made in the finals was much less than in the preliminaries, but blunders were



Dibyendu Barua

almost as frequent The final placing, however, was not a very good reflection of the players' strength and I must admit that I proved the weakest link in the chain In the preliminary rounds I stood 2nd with 5/6, and, though, as one of the three national players, I was expected to finish within the first 5 positions in the finals, it, unfortunately, lost all but one game and thereby finished last

SUBHANKAR SINHA

Bihar sports in the doldrums

PATNA: If the sportsmen of Bihar have not been able to occupy as prominent a place on the sports map of India as was expected, the fault is not theirs, but of the system of which they are the products. For example, if a child does not get good schooling, his grooming will never be perfect, there will always be chinks here and there, no matter how hard he works There may be some exceptions, but by and large, such products will fail to come up to the standard

Among the organisations responsible for the development of sports in Bihar, the State Sports Council, naturally, has the biggest role to play. This is what its counterparts in other States, the AICS and the SNIPES Board at the centre are doing

If Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State in India, has the biggest budget for sports and youth welfare in the country, Bihar, only next to UP in population, which is nearly seven crores, has only a paltry amount of Rs 12 75 lakhs earmarked as the annual outlay for its sports council. Bihar's annual budget, for sports and youth welfare is Rs 30 lakhs whereas in UP the annual expenditure on these two joint heads was Rs 10 crores till a few years ago. Even a State like Haryana, with a population of nearly two crores, spends almost as much amount of money every year for the development of sports

Compared to these States and most others in India, the sports outlay in Bihar seems like a cruel joke The Chief Minister here goes about announcing grants to the tune of lakhs of rupees whenever it comes to giving away prizes or laying foundation stones. All these commitments are forwarded to the Sports Council as if it had been provided with rich funds to honour these generous announcements

Let us have a look at the break-up of different items in the smallest sports budgetary allocations in the whole of India which Bihar has the sad distinction to have. Out of the total amount of Rs 12 75 lakhs, 6 75 lakhs are for the non-tribal sector and 6 lakhs for the tribal sector. The biggest chunk of this 'chicken feed' is spent for the sports development centres located in seven schools and two colleges—Rs 4.50 lakhs (tribal) and Rs 1 75 lakhs (non-tribal) For grants-in-aid to State and district level associations, the amount fixed for non-tribal areas is Rs 2.25 lakhs and for the tribal, it is Rs 75,000. A sum of Rs 3 lakhs is earmarked for organising rural sports in panchayats, blocks, districts, etc , and of this amount Rs 2 lakhs are spent for the non-tribal areas and Rs 50,000 for the tribal areas For coaching at the regional level—Patna, Ranchi and Muzaffarpur—only a sum of Rs 1 lakh is to be spent—Rs 75,000 for the non-tribal areas and Rs 25,000 for the tribal sector.

The woes of the State's sports do not end here Almost all States in India have their own Sports Directorates, even a new-born State like Nagaland But in Bihar, let alone a directorate, even the officer who looks after sports along with his other duties as the director of Youth Welfare and Libraries, is transferred, approximately, every six months and the greater pity is that he 'directs' sports perhaps, without ever having kicked a ball in his life

The sports council's pro-chairman, Arjun Vikram Shah, MLA, when contacted for his comments on the prevailing state of affairs, said that he had been pressing for the last several years for not only a separate Directorate of Sports under the council, but for a separate Ministry of Sports as well He had also been asking the State Government for allocating at least 5% of the total education budget of Rs 288 crores to sports In fact, it was after hearing the Chief Minister declare at several functions last year that it was his desire to see Bihar's sports as second to none in India that a sports budget of Rs 1 90 crores was prepared, but only to be turned down by the Planning and Finance Departments Recently, when Mr. Shah met the Chief Minister and told him of how his desire has been frustrated by the Planning Department, the CM asked for a copy of the plan to try once again The copy has been given to him and now only time will show the result

The tragedy of Bihar's sports is manifold and needs much greater space to be described clearly. At present the greatest pity is that there is no one to give even a semblance of direction at the government level. Normally, the IAS officer who is posted as Sports

Director—there have been exceptions also—thinks it to be a sort of punishment for him to have to continue in office, specially because the council has neither the requisite funds nor the necessary powers to carry out the schemes.

PREM KUMAR

First kho kho test series in India

INDORE: For the first time in the history of Indian kho kho a Test series between India and the Rest of India, in both the men's and women's sections, was held here recently The series attracted tremendous public response

In spite of the slight drizzle which made the ground slippery, the performances were quite electrifying. In the first Test in the women's section India defeated the Rest of India 5-4 In the first innings (stint) India could get only two of the Rest players out with Devya of the Rest remaining not out after playing for three long minutes India also lost only two players and at the breather the score was 2-2. In the second innings Rest of India lost three players, despite the achievement of Rekha Polke who went on playing for almost 2 minutes and 28 seconds India ultimately defeated the Rest of India 5-4, losing only two players in the second innings

The first Test in the men's section was also full of thrill and excitement In spite of being 2-6 down in the first innings the Rest of India got 8 of the Indian players out in the second innings and created a sensation This meant that if India were to win they would have to earn 5 points in the second innings. In an exciting second innings, India got four Rest of India players out, though Indore's Sudhakar Rege dodged the India attackers for almost one minute and 49 seconds before he slipped on the slippery ground and got out with only one second remaining for the final whistle. Thus India emerged victors by 11-10 and Venkat Raju the most outstanding performer. In the second Test of the women's section India outplayed the Rest of India by an innings and three points, while in the second Test of the men's section the Rest of India, after leading 5-2 in the first innings, lost 8-12 to India after the completion of the second innings. For India Chandrashekhar excelled and got two of the Rest of India players out Venkat Raju tried his best to defend himself for almost 3 minutes and 45 seconds

India clinched the series after remaining 8-8 in the final Test In the women's section too India won the series.

SUJEET MOHANTY

India win hands down

HYDERABAD: No thrill, no excitement and no real rivalry—it was a lack-lustre show: the first round of the Asian Zone Thomas Cup tournament between India and Sri Lanka, held recently at the flood-lit Indoor Stadium here The Indian players simply outplayed the poor islanders 9-0

On the opening day, India under the captaincy of the new national champion Syed Modi, won all the four matches—two singles and two doubles Only Priyanta Wijayasekhara posed some challenge when he threatened newcomer Vimal Kumar in the second singles match, fighting neck to neck with the latter till 12-all

Tall, slim and medium-complexioned Wijayasekhara showed tremendous control over his racket He moved like a panther on the court The way he received the drop shots and the powerful forehands from Vimal was a treat for the eyes

In the opening singles Syed Modi had so much supremacy over the Sri Lanka No 1 Ravi Kurruppu that he won the first game conceding only one point and jumped on to a 9 0 lead in the second It was only at this stage that Kurruppu succeeded in snatching a point The match was over in 24 minutes with the score reading 15 1, 15-5 in favour of Syed Modi.

In all likelihood Wijayasekhara has a bright future ahead, if he continues to show the promise that he had exhibited here The fast moving Sri Lankan, with his quick returns and accurate smashes made Vimal fight hard to cash in on the early lead he had taken in the opening game

Wijayasekhara achieved parity at 7 7 and continued to trouble the Indian badminton prospect But the level-headed Vimal drew on his experience to subdue the Sri Lankan at 15 8 In the second game, both the players tried to outmanoeuvre each other and the score at one stage read 12 all Wijayasekhara even managed to forge ahead to 14 But Vimal soon corrected himself at this crucial juncture to level the scores 16 16 and wrap up the tie at 17, thereby giving the hosts a 2 0 lead

On the other hand the Indian doubles teams of Leroy d'Sa Sanat Misra and Uday Pawar Sanjay Sharma defeated the Sri Lankan combinations of Ravi Kurruppu Mallik Jahn and Niroshan Wijayakoon Dilantha Wijeyasooriya respectively, almost hands down The matches were so one-sided that they were over in just one hour The Sri Lankans could manage only 10 points from the two ties

M S SHANKAR

Syed Modi of India plays in style



M RAMESH RAO

ASC win Ravi Dass tourney

JULLUNDUR The Army Services Corps, Jullundur, won the third All India Guru Ravi Dass hockey tournament, that concluded recently at the Government College in Hoshiarpur, humbling their other feared opponents Punjab Police, also of Jullundur

The match was played at a dangerously high tempo with tempers running at a high pitch on both sides Knowing fully well the tactics the policemen are famous for the Army Services Corps tried to beat their opponents at their own game Every one of the army team executed sharp and penetrating hits

One remarkable feature of this match, which the army team won by a solitary extra time goal, was that the goalkeepers of both sides Deepak Sen (Punjab Police) and Romee James (Army Services Corps) showed perfect anticipation, trying hard for full 70 minutes to save their respective teams

The Army Services Corps shot into the lead towards the end of the first half when their centre forward Tirkey collected the ball which rebounded off the goalpost, and sent it home In the remaining period Punjab Police tried desperately to level the score, but only in vain

However, Punjab Police were without their star players- India hockey captain Surjit Singh, right half back Gurmail Singh and forward Surinder Singh Sodhi Nevertheless, they fought well

To sum up, the tournament proved a great success thanks to Parampit Singh a lecturer who took much pains to organise the tournament in a disciplined way

HARBANS SINGH VIRDI

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Hat-trick star—overlooked for Tests

Only one bowler has taken more hat-tricks in first-class cricket than a Gloucestershire slow left-arm spinner who achieved the feat six times—twice in one match—yet played in only one Test match.

And only two bowlers in history have taken more wickets in first-class cricket. His career spanned 30 years and over the last half of it he never dropped below 100 wickets in a season. Five times he took more than 200 wickets. Once he took all 10 wickets in an innings and on no fewer than eight occasions he took nine.

One of his most remarkable performances was against Essex when he took 9-44 in the first innings—the other batsman was run out—and 8-12 in the second, giving him a match analysis of 17-56, which is the sixth best on record.

He played a spectacular part in the historic tied match between Gloucestershire and the Australians in 1930—twice claiming Don Bradman's wicket and taking 7-54 in the Australians' second innings. The 7-54 included the wicket of Bradman, bowled for 14.

The Gloucestershire bowler's 7-54 probably afforded him double satisfaction as in the previous Australian fixture, the fifth Test, he had attended at The Oval but had not been included in the England team beaten by an innings and 39 runs.

Time and again he was sent for and discarded on the morning of a Test, often it seemed when the wicket was laid out quaking and ready for his lovely artistry", as Ron Mason, biographer of Gloucestershire great' Wally Hammond picturesquely put it.

In his only Test against Australia at Old Trafford in 1921 he emerged from a weather-spoilt match with 2-32 from 28 overs. The man who managed to make only one Test saved for his benefit match one of the most spectacular of his many remarkable performances. On a rain-damaged wicket he took nine Yorkshire wickets for 36—eight of them without assistance from the field. He hit the stumps five times with consecutive balls but the second was a no-ball.

"On his day" wrote Ron Mason "there was no more deadly slow left-hander than this slim, quizzical character with the sleepily easy action." Mason suggested that his weakness with the bat together with a failure to penetrate on hard wickets might have decided selectors not to trust his outstanding talents.



Sir Donald Bradman

QUESTION 1 Who was this great spinner who frequently opened the bowling and bowled right through an innings and who, in a first-class career lasting from 1903 to 1935 took 3,278 wickets at an average of 19.47, in addition to scoring 8,197 runs and making 235 catches?

First Englishman to perform the hat-trick against Australia was a Yorkshire all-rounder way back in 1883 in a Melbourne Test in which he also made 55 and took 14 wickets—7/28, including the hat-trick, and 7/74. His bag of wickets, from slow-medium round-arm bowling and his runs won him the distinction of first player to take 10 or more wickets and make a half-century in a Test. And his hat-trick won for him from admirers £31 and a tall hat made of silver.

QUESTION 2 Who took the silver hat-trick?

First Australian to take a Test hat-trick was "The Demon" Frederick Robert Spofforth at Melbourne in 1879 when he took 6-48 and 7-62 as Australia beat England by 10 wickets—2-56 and 19-0 to 113 and 160.

QUESTION 3 Who was the last Australian to take a Test hat-trick?

Bowling against Sussex in a 1972 match at Eastbourne, a Surrey bowler took six wickets in nine balls converted into seven wickets in 11 balls—both world records.

QUESTION 4 Who was he?

LAST WEEK's ANSWERS

1 Don Tallon, 12 wickets for Queensland against New South Wales in Sydney, 1938-39, and seven wickets in an innings against Victoria in Brisbane, 1938-39.

2 Brian Taber, who caught nine and stumped three for New South Wales against South Australia, at Adelaide, 1968-69.

3 Gil Langley, who set the world record for dismissals in a Test in the second Test at Lord's in June, 1956.

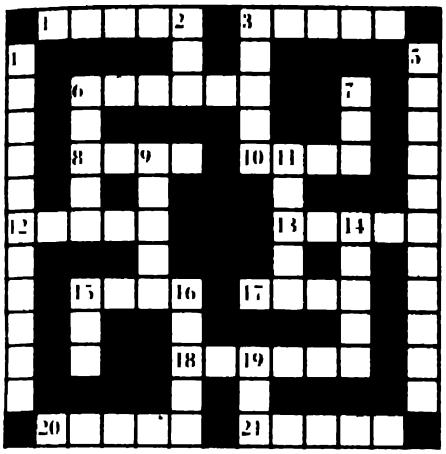
4 Wally Grout, of whose 187 victims, 163 were caught and 24 stumped. The Sheffield Shield match in which he caught eight batsmen in an innings was Queensland vs Western Australia, in Brisbane, February, 1960.

5 Godfrey Evans, in the second Test, Sydney, 1946, when Sid Barnes (10 hours 42 minutes) and Sir Donald Bradman (6½ hours) each scored 234 and put on a record 405 for the fifth wicket. Australia won the match by an innings and 33 runs. In the third Test, in Melbourne, in January, 1947 Australia 365 (in which Evans allowed no bye) and 536 drew with England 351 and 310 for 7. In his book *The Gloves are Off*, Evans tells of Hutton, during the Bradman-Barnes stand, putting his hand on his shoulder and saying "You know, Godfrey, there's nowt for it but run b - s out!"

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

123



1 Lewis and Lloyd (5)
3 Undoubtedly America's greatest amateur golfer also compiles crosswords (5)
6 Shortened victors overact in the middle (6)
8 Captain's right hand man has one bad habit (4)
10 Cricketers never like the sharpened side of a blade (4)
12 Many short Cardinals at the bridge table (5)
13 An aid is always necessary to find a good gymnast (5)
15 Quick indoor game movement (4)
17 Boxers always disturb the Iranian News Agency when they want to practise (4)
18 Cricket fans sometimes trek as if they are lost (6)
20 Russian athlete who kept pushing (5)
21 The good little witch plays tennis (5)

DOWN

2 High-flying mascot? (3)
3 J C O's Christian name (5)
4 Junior The Incredible Sulk Animal (4,7)
5 It is strange that Clay and Chappell are in this premier tennis tournament (7,4)
6 Not only needed when cricket is played during winter nights (5)
7 Start swinging at the course (3)
9 File a law suit against this tennis player (4,1)
11 Tennis player who is the victim of a blunt edged instrument (4,1)
14 Sounds like Ibbotson drilled oil (5)
15 This cricketing great always gives a confused nod (3)
16 Shortend golf term followed by shortened saints gives us great cricket matches (5)
19 Noisy disturbance propels boat (3)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Behind each of the following nonsense an internationally famous sport personality hides himself herself Find him her out from within the juxtaposed letters of his her familiar name

1 MILE TO PEAK Z
2 WINS S DOSE M
3 STERN E AIE HER C
4 CHIC HEN G
5 DO RUB EYE
6 SIR EPS NAIR
7 BE ON A BOMB
8 I ARE ON A MISS
9 CAN ASS BITE EO
10 DON SIGHTS WET

ANSWERS

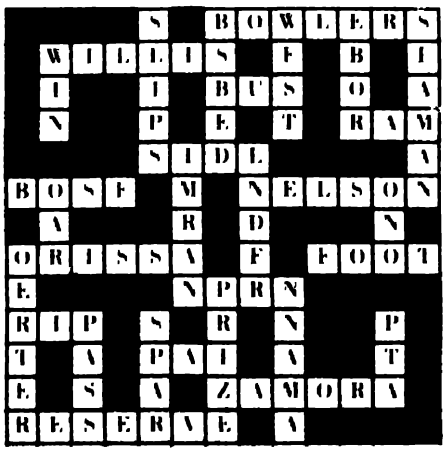
10 DWIGHT STONES
9 SEBASTIAN COE
8 SARA SIMEONI
7 BOB BLAMON
6 IRINA PRESS
5 UDO BEYER
4 CHI CHENG
3 RENATE STECHER
2 EDWIN MOSES
1 EMIL ZATOPEK

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vidya

M S Yadav, Mangalore, P V Ranganathan, Hyderabad
Q. How many Test wickets has Madan Lal taken and what is his best bowling performance?
A. 29 wickets in 16 Tests, with 5 72 vs Australia at Brisbane in 1977 78 as his best bowling performance
M. B Salian, Mangalore
Q. What is Brijesh Patel's highest score in Tests? How many catches has he taken in Tests?
A. 115 n o against West Indies at the Port of Spain in 1975-76 He has held 17 catches in 21 Tests

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 122



Khurshid Alam Jamshedpur, Mohd Salim, Bombay, Pratulla Biswas, Burla
Q When and where did Abid Ali make his Test debut?
A Abid Ali played the first Test for India at Adelaide against Australia in 196 68

Monoranjan Sahaw Bhuwaneswar
Q Who has taken maximum wickets in a series for India?
A B S Chadrasekhar took a maximum of 35 wickets in a 5 Test series vs England in India in 1972 73

Shiva Shankar K S Bangalore
Q Who has scored the highest number of triple centuries double centuries and single centuries in Tests?
A D G Bradman of Australia scored 2 triple centuries and 10 double centuries while G S Sobers of West Indies has hit 24 single centuries

G Sukhendar Reddy, Hyderabad
Q What is the Test record of Allan Border and Kim Hughes?
A Before embarking on the tour of England Hughes has scored 2 373 runs in 33 Tests 60 innings with 4 times n o and Border has made 2 060 runs in 49 innings of 27 Tests

C Rajan, Roshan, Muzaffarpur Alok Bettiah, S Suren of Sakra
Q What is B S Chandrasekhar's address?
A C o, Karnataka State Cricket Association, KSCA Stadium Bangalore

Anjan Goyal, Tinsukhia
Q What is the Test record of D Hadlee of New Zealand?
A 26 Tests 42 innings, 5 times not out 530 runs, 56 highest score 14 32 average, 4 883 balls 2 389 runs 71 wickets and 33 64 average

V R Ganesh, Palghat
Q How many Test centuries has Greg Chappell hit so far?
A 18 centuries in 67 Tests

B. John Vijayan, Madurai
Q. What was Pataudi's age when he first captained India in Test cricket?
A 21 years and 78 days

Rajiv Srivastava, Patna.
Q. What is the world record for second wicket partnership?
A. 451 by W H Ponsford and D G Bradman of Australia against England at The Oval in 1934

C.P.Reddy, Raichur
Q. What is the Test record of Gordon Greenidge of West Indies?
A. 34 Tests, 59 innings, 3 not outs, 2,435 runs, 134 highest score, 43 48 average, 5 centuries and 17 half centuries

Pulak Dey, Bankura
Q. What is the official address of Bihar Cricket Association?
A. Keenan Stadium, Jamshedpur 831 001

S.Jawaharlal Nehru, Ramnad; Tapaskar Panja, Durgapur, and Kajal Mukherjee, Rudranagar
Q. What are M A K Pataudi's date of birth and record in Tests?
A. M A K Pataudi was born on 5 1 1941 at Bhopal and in 46 Tests he made 2,793 runs at an average of 34 91 His highest score is 203 n o in 6 centuries, 16 half centuries

Mohd.Jawed Sharif, Kanpur.
Q. When did Sir Garfield Sobers make 365 n o ?
A. In the third Test against Pakistan at Kingston in 1958-59

D.Venkatarao, Balangir.
Q. What is Kapil Dev's highest score in Tests and in any first class match?
A. 126 n o in Tests and 193 in first class cricket, i e , in Ranji Trophy

Subhas Paul, Dibrugarh; Deepak Sheth, Bombay, Prakash Deka, Gauhati; Arun Khemka, Burdwan; Ashish Chowdhury, Ranchi.
Q. What is Karsan Ghavri's best bowling performance? Where, when and against whom did he perform it?
A 5 wickets for 33 in the 5th Test against England at Bombay in 1976-77

Srikant, Palghat.
Q. How many catches and stumpings does S M Kirmani have to his credit?
A. 91 catches and 26 stumpings in 48 Tests

Devasis Acharya, Cuttack.
Q. What is Roy Frederick s Test career record?
A. Tests 59, innings 109, not out. 7, total score 4,334, highest score 169, average 42 49, centuries 8, half centuries 28, zeroes 7, and catches 62

A. Kalpana, Madras
Q. What is D B Vengsarkar s Test batting record?
A Tests 42, innings 60, not out 7, total runs 2,384, highest score 157 n o , average 44 98, centuries 5, half centuries 12, zeroes 7, catches 39

Mahmood Ahmad Maliky, Calcutta.
Q. What are Pakistan's highest and lowest scores in Tests?
A. 657 for 8 wickets decl is the highest total and 87 is the lowest total by Pakistan in Tests

Pijush Kanti Das, Pargand.
Q. What is the highest total in a first class cricket match?
A. 1,107 by Victoria vs New South Wales at Melbourne in 1926-27

A. K. Kar, Allahabad
Q. How many players completed 1,000 runs in a calendar year?
A. 20 times the batsmen have scored over 1,000 runs in a calendar year Out of these Gavaskar has reached the target thrice and Ken Barrington of England twice

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Discarding as declarer plays off a long suit can be a complete nightmare for both defenders Often clear thinking and intelligent signalling methods can solve the problems, but they don't always work out This was an interesting example from this year's Portland Pairs

	♠ A Q J 5 3 ♡ 5 ◇ 9 5 4 ♣ 10 9 8 2	
♠ 9 ♡ 10 4 ◇ A K Q J 8 3 2 ♣ K J 4	N W E S	♠ K 10 8 7 6 2 ♡ 9 3 ◇ 10 6 ♣ 7 6 5
	♠ 4 ♡ A K Q J 8 7 6 2 ◇ 7 ♣ A Q 3	

The deal looks a wild freak - they always blame the computer dealing that is used nowadays for large events using the same hands over the entire field - but that is how it goes If all the hands were 4-3-3-3 there would be scores of complaints in the other direction

South dealt at love all and, as you can imagine, there was a wide range of results With the higher ranking suit, South usually 'won' the auction, but six-hearts was not a success, and East-West often doubled this contract (Quite why, I wonder? Flair perhaps ?) However, at one table the contract was only five-hearts and the play proved interesting

West led a top diamond and, after studying dummy at length, could see no reason why he shouldn't continue the suit South ruffed and ran off seven rounds of trumps to leave West puffing and blowing. True, his partner signalled heavily in spades, but it didn't really help With four cards to go this was the position

	♠ A ♡ none ◇ 9 ♣ 10 9	
♠ none ♡ none ◇ Q ♣ K J 4	N W E S	♠ K 8 ♡ none ◇ none ♣ 7 6
	♠ 4 ♡ none ◇ none ♣ A Q 3	

Now a spade to the Ace finished West - if he threw his diamond dummy's nine became a winner, while if (as he did) he let a club go, he was thrown in with his diamond and forced to lead away from his King of clubs ' A better defence? Switch to spades at trick 2!

Last week's quiz: a reader asked, "Why do some players use transfer overcalls over 1NT by an opponent, for example, two-diamonds asking partner to bid two-hearts? Has this method any advantages?" As I see it there are three advantages 1 After partner has bid two-hearts over my two-diamonds I can make another bid if I have started with a moderate two-suiter. 2 If I just pass two-hearts the stronger defending hand is on lead and the 'unknown quantity' hand is concealed 3 Partner may have started with say ♠ xxx ♡ none ◇ Q J 10 xxxx ♣ xxx and judge (very sensibly, I'd say) to play in two-diamonds There are drawbacks to the method, of course, but that is another story

This week's quiz: Suppose that the bidding (unopposed) starts South, one-heart, North, one-spade, South three-clubs Is a bid of four hearts now more encouraging than three?

Chess

Peter Clarke

During the past ten years or so the sponsorship of chess events has increased to such an extent that the financial rewards for mastery are beginning to catch up with those in some of the more glamorous sports If the process continues, then one day the top masters could become almost as well known as the stars of golf and tennis Here in Britain, for example, it is by no means uncommon to find prize funds of more than £1000 at five-round tournaments held over a weekend, and some of our grandmasters are more than happy to risk their reputations for that sort of money Both Miles and Nunn were in the field at the Second Manor Tyres Chess Congress in Bristol in June, and Miles duly went off with a share of the first two prizes with M Chandler, the New Zealand master based in this country Nunn, having lost to Chandler, could only finish in a multiple tie for third place, but he did at least produce one of the most spectacular victories of the year so far The white King makes no less than eleven moves, wandering the board with disdain for Black's checks, for when the checks run out the dominance of the centre by the white forces is,as strong as ever and totally decisive

White **John Nunn**; Black **Gareth Anthony**. Sicilian Defence (Bristol 1981)

1 P – K4, P – QB4,	**2 Kt – KB3, Kt – QB3**
3 P – Q4, PxP;	**4 KtxP, P – K4**
5 Kt – Kt5, Kt – B3;	**6 Kt(Kt5) – B3 . . .**

The intention behind this cautious-looking move must have been to get the opponent out of prepared lines It worked very well

6 . . P – KR3; **7 B – K3, B – Kt5**

With this and the next move Black plays right into White s hands The solid 7 B - K2 followed by P Q3 was needed

8 P – QR3, Q – R4?,	**9 PxB!, QxR**
10 Q – Q6, KtxKP,	**11 KtxKt, QxKtch**
12 K – Q2, QxKtP,	**13 P – Kt5, Kt – Kt5**

If 13 Q – Kt5ch, 14 QxQ, KtxQ, White wins by 15 Kt - Q6ch followed by B – B5

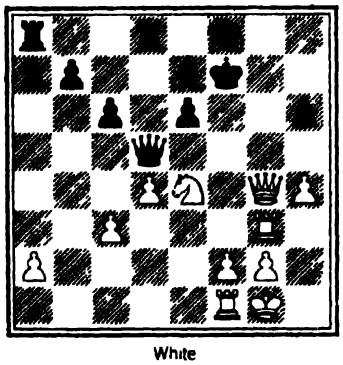
14 B – B5, QxPch,	**15 K – K3, Q – Kt6ch**
16 K – K2, Q – B5ch,	**17 K – B3, Q – Kt6ch**
18 K – K2, Q – B5ch,	**19 K – B3, Q – Kt6ch**
20 K – Kt4, P – B4ch,	**21 KxP, Q – B2ch**

It would be easy for White after 21 Q - K3ch 22 QxQch, PxQch, 23 K Kt6

22 KxP, Kt – B7,	**23 B – B4, Q – R4ch**
24 K - B4, Q - R5ch,	**25 K – B3, P – QKt3**
26 Q – Kt8ch, K – Q1,	**27 P – Kt3, Q – R6**
28 B – K7ch, KxB,	**29 QxKtPch, K – Q1**
30 QxRch, K – B2,	**31 Q – K5ch, K – Q1**
32 Kt – Q6, Resigns	

Competition G493 Solution next week

Black



White

White to play How did the game finish?

Solution to G492 (Botvinnik - Keres, The Hague, 1948). (rq4k1 / pp1nrppp / 4bn2 / 6R1 / 3QP3 / P4PN1 / 481PP / 2B2RK1 - White to play.) The game saw the drastic finish 21 RxPch!, kxR 22 Kt – R5ch K - Kt3 (other moves are also hopeless, e g 22 K – R1, 23 B – KKt5, Q – KB1, 24 BxKtch, KtxB 25 QxKtch,K Kt1 26 P – B4, threatening R – B3 etc), 23 Q – K3, Resigns

Problem No 1158. Solution next week

A. Mari (First Prize, *Pewarta Soerabaja*, 1928) **(3r1r2/4P2R/Q2n1k2/4qB1P/3N1R2/3KpN2/8/87 – 10 white men; 6 black).**

White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1157 (Chicco). (3r2q1/1B1n4/1B2pbrn/8/5Q2/4P1p1/RN5k/6R4a1 – mate in two.) 1 B – B7 (threat 2 Q – B2) (a) 1 B – K4 2 Q – KR4, (b) 1 Kt – K4, 2 Kt – Q3 (c) 1 P – K4, 2 Kt – B4



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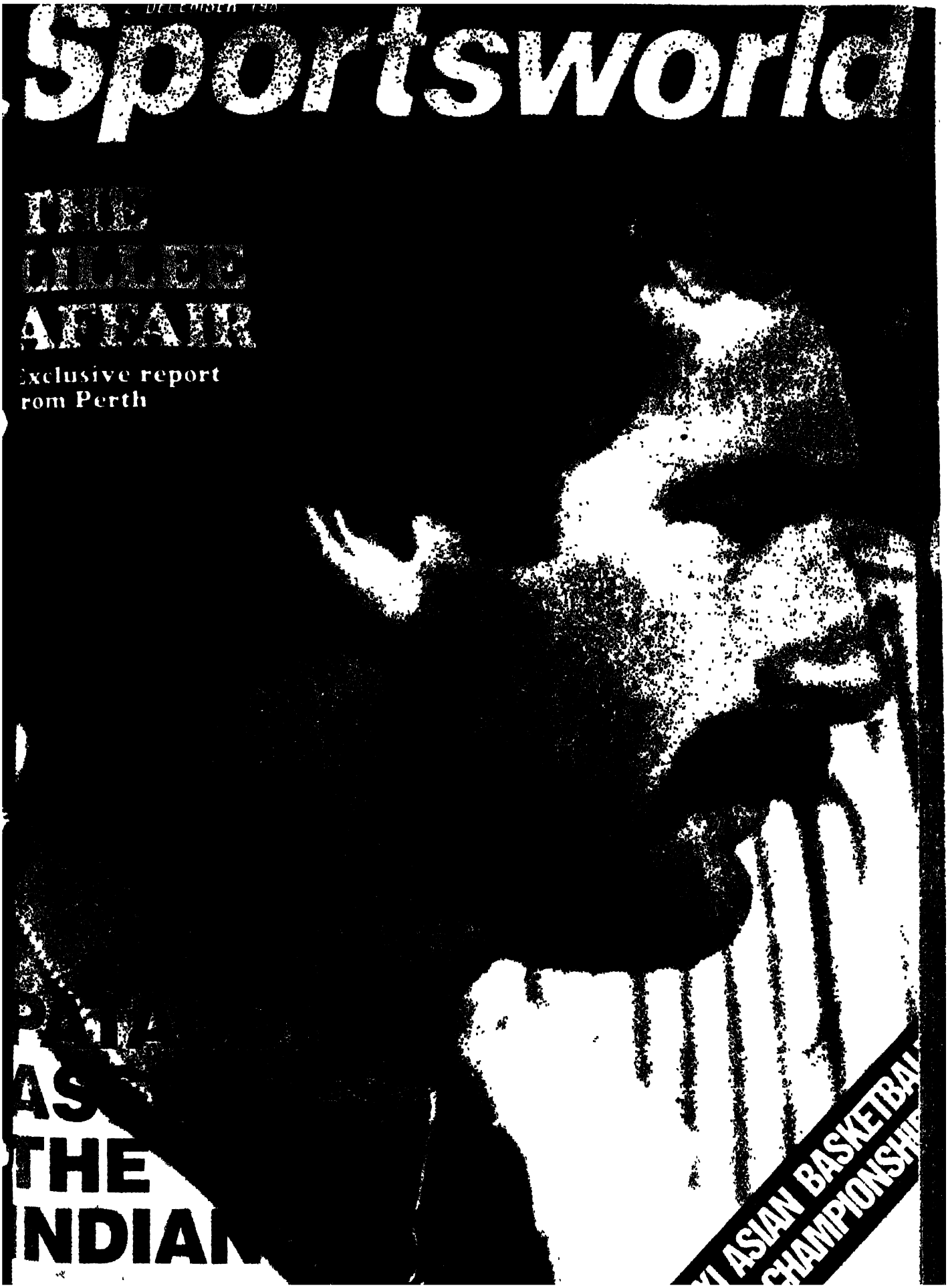
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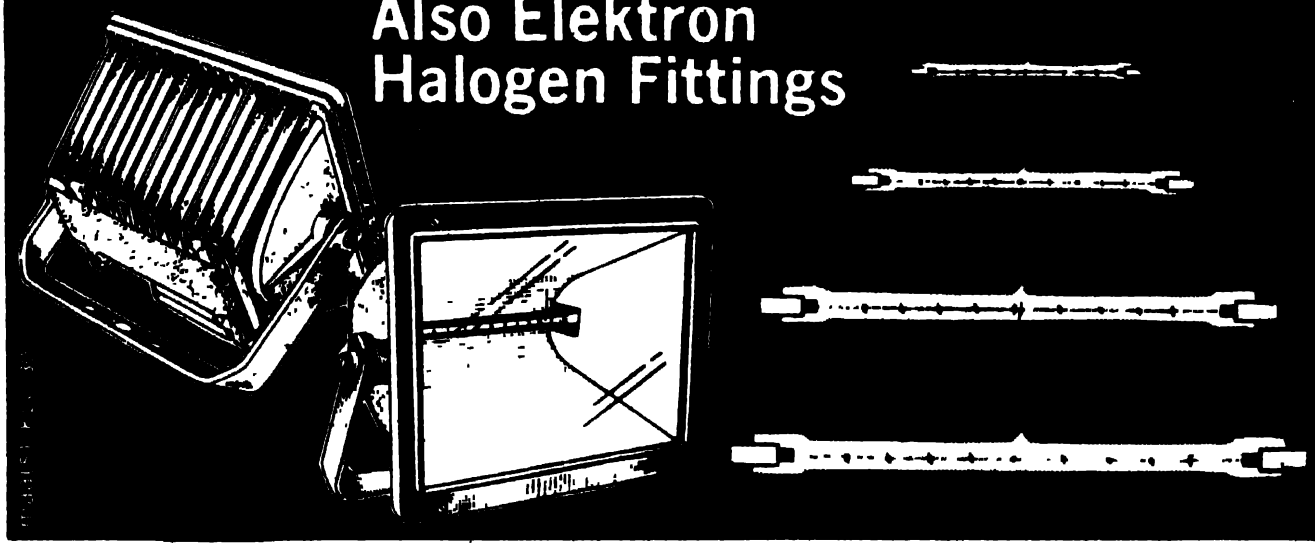
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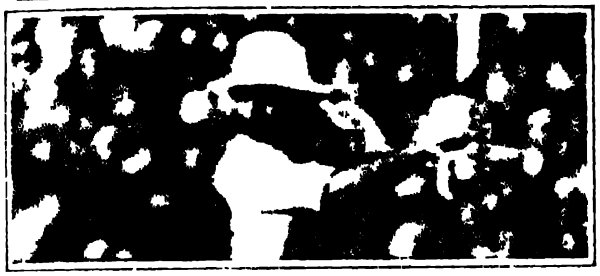
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Letters to the Editor

Cricket and cricket

UNDERSTANDABLY the twin Test series in Australia is going to be an interesting one. After a dismal tour of England the Australian team will try desperately to recapture its lost glory With Greg Chappell and Jeff Thomson back in the side, Australia will once again be a force to reckon with The whole attention will be on Dennis Lillee, who stands on the verge of being the highest wicket taker in the world, and Terry Alderman, who is not expected to fade away so soon like Bob Massie

Pakistan will heavily depend for her batting on Zaheer Abbas and Javed Miandad. With Imran Khan in top form and Sarfraz back in the team, Pakistani bowling will pose problems to the Aussie batsmen

In spite of being champions the West Indians rely too heavily on a few players—Richards and the four fast bowlers. Fortunately, these players have not failed on critical occasions The West Indies cricket team will pose a stiff challenge to Australia, and the latter will find it difficult to defeat the West Indies In the Asian sub-continent also the series between England and India will be equally interesting and thrilling. This series will see a plethors of records being broken The battle will be between Boycott and Gavaskar, and Kapil and Botham. So there will be only cricket and cricket this winter

P K SUBRAMANIAM, Bombay

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS on your editorial in the October 21 issue of *Sportsworld*. It shows a deep insight into the happenings of the elections of the BCCI Committees, analysing the quality of their compositions. I think you are absolutely right in saying that Ghulam Ahmed's inclusion in the selection committee is only a stop-gap arrangement for Venkataraghavan This has once again warranted that parochialism still continues to influence our cricket It is obvious that Venkataraghavan's future position as a national selector is being organised in the same manner in which he was made a captain of the State team, namely, by overlooking and discarding others Mike Brearley has proved that it is not necessary for a captain to be a good batsman or a bowler Surely, the same reasoning holds good for the selectors also We have plenty of retired players in Madras, outstanding of them being A G Kripal Singh whose track record is good and whose contribution to the team's success has been relatively better But it is unfortunate that such positive contributors are made victims of "inelegant compromise" or parochialism I admire your courage

G R RAO, Coimbatore

Bring back Dalvi

WITH Arun Lal to serve as a morale booster for Bengal, it has a fairly good chance to throw a stiff challenge to Bombay, Delhi, Karnataka etc, in the Ranji Trophy Championship for 1981-82 The Bengal selectors, headed by Jagmohan Dalmia, would do a splendid job if they bring back Michael Dalvi into the Bengal side He is an experienced and a seasoned player, and his introduction will consolidate Bengal's middle order batting The following Bengal team (in this batting order) may be considered for this year's Ranji Trophy Tournament Pranab Roy, Rajesh Dani, Arun Lal, Udaybhanu Banerjee, Michael Dalvi, Pranab Nandi, Sambaran Banerjee, Barun Burman, Zeeshan Mohammad, Dilip Doshi (captain), Subrata Porel and Palash Nandi, if needed as a replacement of Dani

SHARMILA GUHA, Baliyan North

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Grievous

THE premature death of Jagannath Kittu has saddened the hearts of the Indian soccer fans He was a leading footballer of India in the Fifties and was a member of the Indian football team that stood fourth in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne Besides, he was a fine gentleman and possessed a sense of good humour Recently, before his death, he engaged himself in building the Indian team for the forthcoming Asian Games in Delhi

TAPAN CHOUDHURY, SUBRATA CHATTERJEE and SHYAMAL BANERJEE,
Rourkela

No frustration

ONE should congratulate Pranab Roy for his performance against West Zone in Duleep Trophy final He should not be frustrated for his not being included in President's eleven against England He should remember that he is the son of Pankaj Roy and therefore should play with dedication and wait patiently like Doshi for his turn to come

G A WARWADEKAR,
Bombay

Leave Bengal

BARUN BURMAN's optimism in his ability to enter the Test side is quite strange, and I hope nobody will share his feeling Barun has, quite depressingly, said about his bad luck and the Indians will sympathise with him in some respects Actually he has broken down quite often on crucial occasions But this practically points to his utter lack of fitness, and the excuse he has given about his pulled muscles appears to be more strange than even fiction

Fitness has always been crucial to the success of fast bowlers The most recent example is that of Dennis Lillee Aspiring fast bowlers in India should see that they do not break down early in the season in critical moments Further, this lack of fitness exposes itself when the team suffers more than the player The West Indian Lawrence Rowe had thus to pay a heavy price for his lack of fitness in spite of his prolific talent

If Barun finds that it is difficult to practise in Calcutta throughout the year he can come to the the west or the north where all facilities for practice throughout the year are available. If he comes either to Bombay or to Delhi, he will not have to suffer from "muscle strains" early in the season Barun has tremendous potential but his poor physique has pushed him back into oblivion It is necessary, for the sake of our country's interest, to utilise fully the talent latent within him

VIJAY CHORGHADE
Pune

On AIFF

SARAJIT DEB has nicely brought out in the November 4 issue of *Sportsworld* the blunders and uncertainties in the actions of the AIFF It is quite evident that the affairs of the AIFF are directed more or less by the secretary Then, how could anyone else explain the validity of the decision to free the deserters from the Salt Lake Camp on conditions which were his own making? Subsequently, the AIFF had to accommodate these players in the camp at the expense of those players who did not leave the camp

The recent camp at Bombay certainly puts the AIFF and the national selectors to the test The players called to the camp included those who are not in the original line-up of even their clubs On what basis the two players of Premier Tyres have been called to the camp is hard to understand

Then, again, there is the factor of regional consideration Thus, why the selectors have included Aleem Khan, a Maharashtra player, is rather obvious

A K PREMCHAND,
Bombay

No embarrassment

I DO not know whether readers and cricket lovers of India have ever thought what would have been the reaction of our Cricket Control Board had East Zone won the Duleep Trophy. In fact, I feel West Zone has not only got the trophy but has also saved the selection committee from great embarrassment

N. R. KOTWAL,
Bombay

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton & Tom Foreman

KARIN IN SUMMER

Cologne: Former pentathlonist Karin Harel achieved a new indoor world record at the indoor European Championships, with her 6 77 metre long jump Banned from taking part because "sports teachers may not participate," Karin nevertheless made her mark, encouraged by her boyfriend decathlonist Hand Dieter Antretter. Said Hans—rather ambiguously—of his girl who's now employed with a lottery gambling firm. "Karin was always better in summer than in winter"

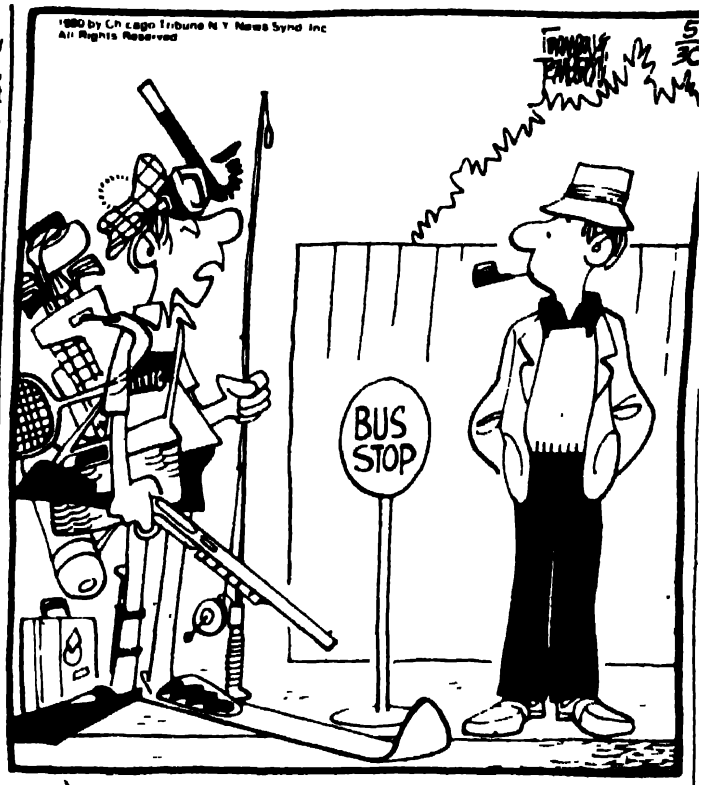
THIS BALL GAME

Yorkshire: "Please ma'am can we have our ball back?" asks the lad with the innocent-looking blue eyes Then while the lady of the house and he go out into the garden to look for it, his team-mates slip into the house through the backdoor and make off with the valuables This is the latest confidence trick being played on housewives here, by ten-year olds Even kids play for cash, it seems

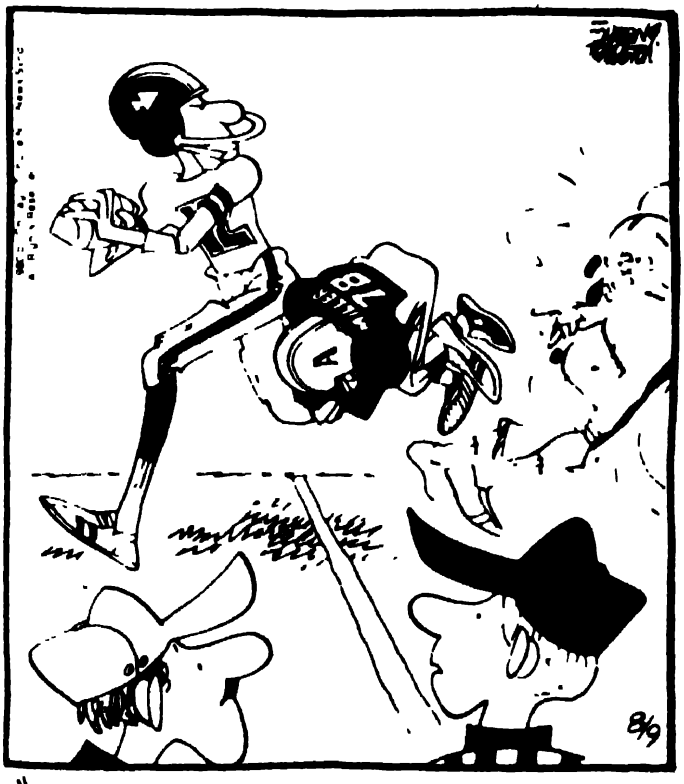
FACING THE MUSIC

Somerset: Somerset have a good cricket side today, what with Ian Botham and Viv Richards Not so a decade or two ago when they were at the bottom of the County Championship One of the captains in those depressing times was school master R J Meyer who wanting to improve the morale of the team decided to install a piano in the dressing room Accordingly he went to a second-hand music shop and asked 'May I have a piano *for* my team? The dealer, a cricket lover himself, replied in deep sympathy "Fair exchange guv nor, very fair exchange indeed' !

BERNIE TELLIS



"BECAUSE I ONLY GET ONE WEEK OF VACATION, THAT'S WHY!"



"Y'KNOW, MILLER'S JUST NINE INCHES AND NINETY POUNDS AWAY FROM BEIN' ALL-PRO."



... AND THE ENTIRE LEAGUE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STOP REFERRING TO YOUR OPPONENTS AS "STIFFS"...

Sportsworld Serial

Life in America

George Best had gone and settled in America and started playing in the NASL League. He enjoyed himself and quickly adopted to the different manner in which the championship was conducted. This is the fourth and concluding portion from the book "Where do I go from here?" George Best—An Autobiography. This book is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co. London and is priced £ 6.95

AMERICA offered me a chance to win back my self-respect Whereas in Britain the sporting hero is of value only while he's at the top of his career, in America he can cash in on his name and fame for many years afterwards For example, I'd switch on the television and there, in a commercial, might be Jesse Owens, or a footballer or baseball star from twenty or thirty years back The man still meant something to the people But how many sporting heroes of the past are seen on British television? Henry Cooper maybe But that's because he made himself a personality in his own right What does Bobby Moore advertise on television these days, or Jimmy Greaves or Terry Downes? In America their equivalents would be recognised and respected for their achievements long after they've retired But in Britain so it seems, no one wants to know you once you've had your day

The lack of hypocrisy was refreshing, too My lifestyle must have been a newspaperman's delight, and yet while filling their columns with my exploits the papers hammered me for not being the blue-eyed boy who wouldn't so much as ask a girl guide the colour of her knickers The Americans on the other hand, love their sportsmen to be different Take Joe Namath, the New York Jets quarterback who was everything and more that I was in terms of being the jet setting playboy His name appeared in every syndicated gossip column across the country; his photo would include a beautiful broad more often than a football And the ad men flocked to use him They knew that, love him or hate him, Broadway Joe was news He could play a bit, too, even if his legs were virtually tied together with string Yet when the Los Angeles Rams soured, with all the pressures and drinking, the Rams couldn't ditch me quickly enough

So I escaped to cope with additional pressures and feeling so laid back in myself I began to concentrate on my football in 1976 in a way that hadn't been possible since the tailend of the Sixties Moreover, it didn't worry me that the team was far from being the best in the League, whereas I had expected Manchester United to be the best. I enjoyed the responsibility of carrying the attack—Steve David did not join until 1977—and thrived on the challenge of trying to win games on my own if necessary Losing Charlie Cooke early on with a broken arm was the sort of bad luck that dogs a team struggling to establish itself, but a good team spirit adequately compensated for any setbacks As John Chaffetz had told me right at the beginning, no-one expected miracles in my first year, and yet by winning a place in the 1976 play-offs as a wildcard we managed to achieve a small one

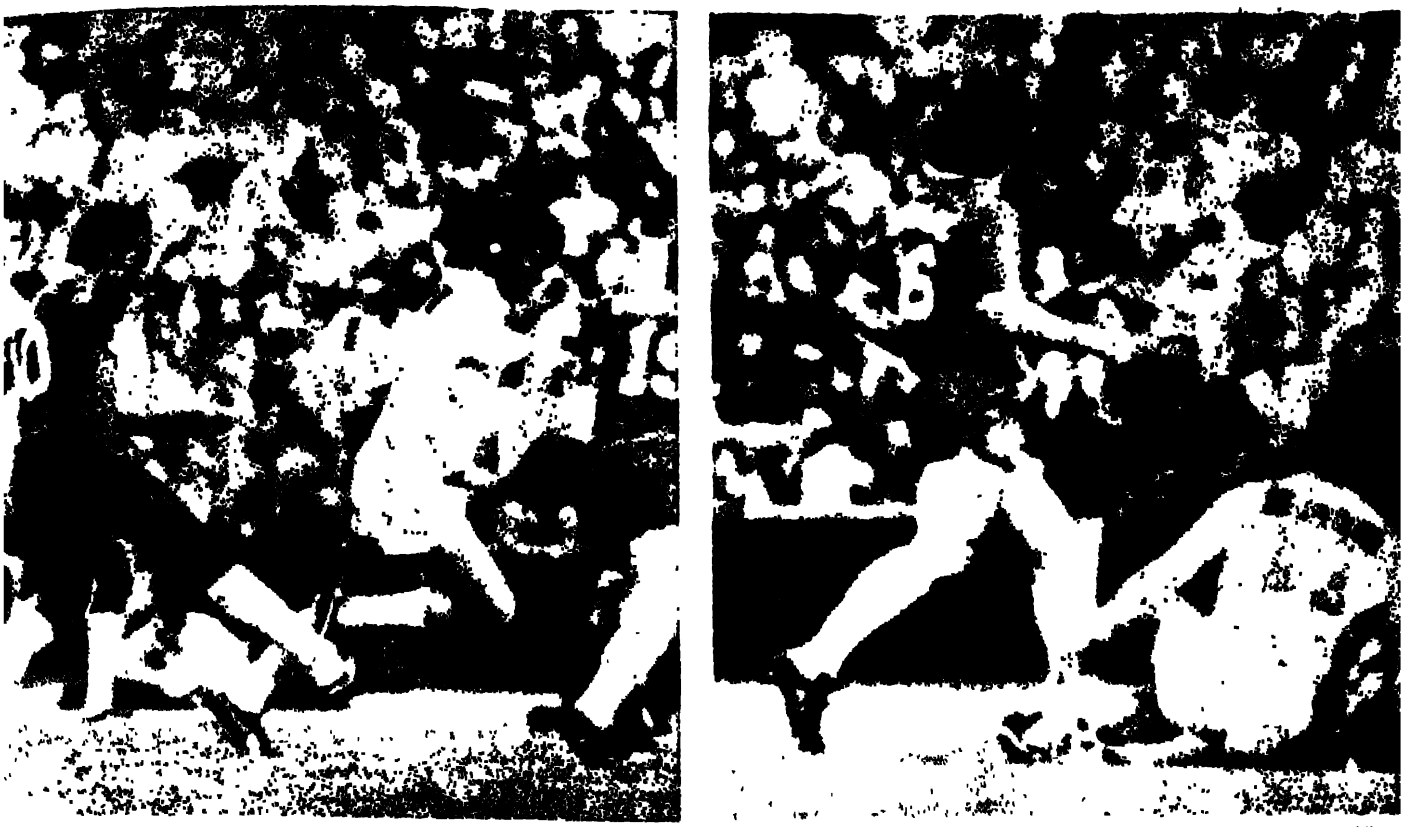
That's what's so lovely about the NASL play-off structure. You needn't be out of the running because you have a bad start to the season. With goals accruing points, as well as a win, a team playing attacking football and scoring goals remains in contention provided it manages to win its share of games. And in the NASL you can only win or lose; there's no such thing as a draw. If the scores are level after ninety minutes, fifteen minutes' sudden-death overtime is played—until one team scores—and if that fails to break the deadlock the game is decided on a shoot-out. This is not penalties, but a one-on one situation between one attacker and the goalkeeper. The attacker begins with the ball on the 35-yard offside line—another NASL innovation—and has five seconds within which to get the ball in the goal. The goalkeeper may move off his line and is limited only by the laws governing goalkeepers during normal play Each team nominates five attackers for the shootout—from the team which finished the period of overtime—and a player from each team shoots alternately

Family man at home in Los Gatos, California with wife Angela, baby son Calum and Dallas the Alsatian



IN 1976 we went into our last Divisional game, against Dallas, needing nine points for a wildcard place as the National Conference team with most points, excluding those who qualified as Divisional winners and runners-up To obtain those nine points, we had to win (six points) and score three goals (Under the system then operating, one point was awarded for every goal up to three.) The fact that we hadn't scored more than two goals in any one match all season didn't bode well for our chances; nor did a goalless first half But it was a lovely evening for football, and after a lazy day on the beach I suddenly felt like turning it on for forty-five minutes. If this was to be my last game of the season I might as well give the home fans something to remember me by I hope they did, because we won 4-1 and I scored two of those goals. So we made the play-offs against all expectations only, in one of those ironies of football, to be drawn against the Tornados in Dallas This time they beat us by the only goal of the match

Being eliminated from the play-offs didn't cause me too much heartache. Just getting that far had been a bonus. I was happy enough to be fit and showing people how soccer could be played. Besides, I'd made the NASL All-Star team, as I did again in 1977 when I was also voted 'best midfield player' and the third best player overall behind Pele and Beckenbauer. And I'd also met the girl who was to exert more influence on my life than anyone could have dreamed possible, including myself Strangely enough we'd met, if that's the right word, in England some years before, but not in circumstances I'd care to remember. Not long out of school, she was working as a model at an exhibition I attended and, being slim, blonde and very beautiful, she attracted my attention, I didn't attract hers. When I invited her back to Manchester for a



George Best may have been the best - taking the ball past Pele (left) and being brought down for his skill (right) during the match between LA Aztecs against NY [illegible] which LA won 4-1

few days, she quickly told me to get lost

We should also have met on Bobby's and my thirtieth birthday, but that was a typical Ed Peters' party Too many girls and too few guys Angela Macdonald Janes, invited by Ed because she was English, arrived when the party was in full swing, decided it was not her scene, and took her blonde hair and Californian tan back down the hill in her Jeep The next time I saw her was at the party Bobby and I threw at Fat-Face Fenners in Hermosa Beach a few weeks later I'd asked Ed to invite some girls on our behalf, and Angela and her girlfriend thought they'd give us a second try This time she and I managed to say something to each other, indeed, we spent most of the party together, much to the annoyance of my date who kicked me on the shin and walked off into the night. At the time Angela was working as personal assistant to Cher, the singer, and before coming to the West Coast, she told me, she'd lived in New York, modelling and living with her dog among the famous on Riverside Drive. She rarely saw John Lennon, who was living there at the time with May Pang, but Greta Garbo used to stop and fondle her dog when she was out walking in Central Park. It was fascinating listening to her; she was so full of enthusiasm for life and so in love with what she was doing I couldn't wait to be with her again.

Because Angela was living with Cher in Beverly Hills, seeing each other regularly meant one of us, often Angela, spending an hour or more on the freeway, and driving down to the Beach in the late afternoon and back to Beverly Hills first thing in the morning was no fun in the peak-hour traffic snarls which are such a feature of freeway life in Los Angeles Eventually she moved into the house Bobby and I had bought, and for the first time I had someone else to think of but myself. I also came to learn that I was living with a girl who very much had a mind of her own and wasn't at all impressed by the fact that I was George Best, footballer. I was simply a guy with whom she was falling in love, but there was no way she'd become my doormat Contests of will were a new experience for me and I found myself respecting her for her strength of character I could see we'd have some fights before the summer was out, but I had the feeling it might be worthwhile.

BEING so contented with my way of life, I hadn't given much thought to what I'd do when the American season finished until John Chaffetz told me one day he'd been approached by Fulham He was prepared to release me for the winter but was stipulating certain conditions, such as a $ 2,000 penalty for every Aztec NASL game I missed should Fulham want me to stay on during the overlap of the English and a American seasons Whether or not I went was up to me, he said Angela, never having seen what England did to me, had no objections to coming with me, but my own feelings were mixed It meant a return to wintry English ground conditions after the firm, reliable surfaces I'd become accustomed to in the States, and moreover I was happy living in LA On the other hand I had nothing to do all winter so I thought I'd ask for the world and, if Fulham were agreeable, give them a try My terms were £ 500 a week, £ 10,000 signing on fee, and an apartment and car for the duration of my stay No trouble at all, I was told, much to my surprise "Sir Eric Miller is one of our directors, there's no worry about the money He owns the Churchill Hotel where you can stay until we find a suitable apartment for you Car? No problem" The way it turned out, there was nothing but problems

Fulham doubled their gate the day I made my first appearance at Craven Cottage against Bristol Rovers Their average home gate the previous season was 9,740, but there were 21,127 to see me score after just 71 seconds and put Fulham on the way to their first win of the season A week later the attendance jumped to 25,794 and with an average crowd of 14,589 for the 1976-77 season I reckon Fulham did well out of my presence Our final League position wasn't marvellous, but for a time early in the season it looked as if we might challenge for promotion to the First Division Rodney Marsh had come back from Tampa Bay in Florida and Bobby Moore was still good value in defence, but somehow the promise was never realised For all that we enjoyed our football and one writer even commented that Rodney and I could be seen laughing during the game--a rare happening in English football As the attendance figures show, the fans enjoyed our football too

Concluded

Australia win, but Lillee loses

Greg Chappell's Australians registered a convincing win over the Pakistanis in the first Test at Perth. DAVID McMAHON reports on the match, where fortunes fluctuated but interest was centred on fiery Lillee

ON the night of November 18 the Lillee issue was still wide open. After Lillee's team-mates had announced the $200 fine, there was an uproar in cricketing circles all over the country. The umpires who had officiated in the Perth Test, Tony Crafter and Mel Johnson, who had made the initial complaint about the incident, took a further step to discipline Lillee. Both men lodged an appeal with the Australian Cricket Board's Cricket Committee, whose co-ordinator, Bob Meriman, was the manager of the team that toured India two years ago. Lillee, meanwhile, announced that he would quit big time cricket if he was suspended, while there was an outside chance the Pakistanis would pack up and go home if Lillee was let off leniently.

Lillee, Greg Chappell and Bruce Yardley attended a meeting at ACB headquarters that lasted an hour and forty minutes, where all evidence, including videotapes of the incident, was presented. The written submission by opening batsman Graeme Wood, the first player on the scene of the clash, was also discussed but the proceedings are being kept an extremely closely guarded secret. The suspension motion was carried and Lillee was stood down for two one-day internationals—the first against Pakistan in Melbourne and the second against the West Indies in Sydney.

This suspension will cost Lillee between $1150 and 1400, but the fast bowler quickly backed down from his threat to quit cricket.

The Pakistani manager, when informed of the incident, said that his team would not be returning home. "I think the matter should stay closed in all quarters and we should get on and play cricket." But that was not the end of the matter. Bob Meriman also delivered Javed Miandad a not-too-subtle wrap over the knuckles, saying, "the umpires have indicated that in their opinion the actions of Javed Miandad were also in breach of the code of behaviour and had he been covered by

Umpire Tony Crafter tries to pacify Lillee (left) while Miandad tries to push him away in order to get a crack at the bowler



the same code, he would also have been covered by a similar complaint."

About three hours after the Board had announced its decision to suspend Lillee, I had a chance encounter with him in a Melbourne nightclub where some friends and I were giving a prospective bridegroom the traditional 'Bachelor's Night'. Chappell and Yardley were the first to enter and Lillee showed up about 15 minutes later. Incredulous at my own luck, but weary of the famous Lillee temperament, I approached him cautiously and introduced myself as a journalist. No, he said, he did not mind if I asked him a question But when I asked him to tell me what part Miandad had played in the incident he hesitated, explaining that he would like to talk about it but that circumstances made it impossible. I asked about the verbal exchanges between the two men on the pitch but once again he stopped, looking a long time at the glass in his hand, before he said that the details of the incident were not being divulged. "It's just that there were two sides to the story. There were two men involved and that is all I can say. There is one thing I would like to add, though. I just hope I keep getting the wickets "

ALTHOUGH Australia scored a devastating victory at the WACA ground the main issue was the clash on the penultimate day between fiery superstar Dennis Lillee and the young Pakistani captain Javed Miandad. It all started when Miandad and Wasim Raja were fighting to stay in the game with more than a full day to go Both batsmen were picking up runs at will and were in no problems at all against the Australian fast bowlers who responded with some rearing short pitched deliveries

Lillee bowled a slower one which Miandad flicked to leg, setting off for a single as he did so He began to slow halfway down the pitch and failed to notice Lillee because he was watching Hughes run in to field Lillee, meanwhile, moved away so that he was obstructing the path of the Pakistani skipper it was impossible to judge whether it was a deliberate move but Miandad responded with a push that sent Lillee stumbling in the opposite direction

Meanwhile, Miandad was in danger since he was out of his crease and the ball was still in play. However, with Lillee out of the way he returned to the non-striker's crease and it seemed all was well again But Lillee moved back and there were some words exchanged between both players By this time Miandad's back was turned to the fast bowler, who seemed to be moving back to his runup.

At this stage, it seemed as though Miandad said something to Lillee. If so, it was not the first time in the match that the Pakistani captain had tried baiting Lillee. The Australian aimed a kick at Miandad, catching on his pad and the latter whipped around swinging his bat like a club. Umpire



Rodney Marsh – forced the pace of runs

Tony Crafter's presence between the two men was perhaps the only factor that prevented an exchange of blows for the first time in the history of Test cricket Sensing that the bat would hit Crafter instead of Lillee, Miandad backed away even as Lillee advanced on him Crafter, who is a full twelve inches shorter than Lillee held off the fast bowler even as he sought to retaliate In a matter of seconds Chappell had arrived on the scene from his position in the slips and Lillee was stopped in his tracks.

Pakistani manager Ijaz Butt, visibly perturbed by the incident, had a long discussion with the chairman of the Australian Board of Selectors, Phil Ridings

The former explained later on that the incident was one which required immediate action A rumour that the Pakistani team would be quiting the tour to return home was quickly scotched but Ijaz Butt emphasized that Lillee's behaviour would have to be dealt with suitably

It was not the first time in the match that Lillee had flung down the gauntlet at the tourists In the home team's first innings, he had taunted Imran Khan, applauding his bouncers, arguing with him in the middle of the pitch and generally baiting the former Oxford University captain But Miandad was just as much to blame for his part in the incident He had more or less set the ball rolling when he had



Imran Khan—inspired bowling

taunted Lillee earlier in the innings, daring the Australian to run him out this incident, which is sure to make cricketing history, will spark off controversy that will snowball as it progresses Even the underarm incident will pale by way of comparison

• Under the newly-introduced code of behaviour, Lillee's fate rested in the hands of his teammates and even as Australia slept that Monday night, the most ridiculous decision was made Lillee was fined 200 dollars for the incident, following the complaint made by the umpires and subsequent hearing attended by the Australian Test side. Skipper Greg Chappell, defending the conduct of his fast bowler explained, "after watching the replay it became obvious that Dennis had acted under extreme provocation." Extreme provocation or not, the fact is that Lillee made the first move Chappell explained that when Miandad had pushed Lillee aside initially, he had done so by using his back, knocking Lillee out of his path so that he almost fell. Chappell's contention was that the blow must have been a substantial one because Lillee, a strongly-built athlete was almost sent sprawling.

The incident has caused an uproar but the course of action taken by the Australian side against Lillee was so absurd that intervention by the Australian Board of Control was only a matter of time One fact could hardly be refuted Lillee was indispensible Could then his team-mates take the risk of suspending him from one-day games or Tests to follow

The Pakistani manager explained calmly that Lillee would never have played another Test match if he had been playing for Pakistan That, of



course, is rather far fetched, but this is surely not the end of the Lillee-Miandad affair So Dennis Lillee has come under a cloud but will Javed Miandad be allowed to get away unscathed? It was he who instigated the affair and it seems surprising that he should be allowed to get away scot-free Miandad is not exactly the best behaved of players in the history of Test cricket.

But everybody's sights seemed to be centred on Dennis Lillee

TO compound Miandad's problems, he now has to set about restoring the confidence of his side Rated as the underdogs of the triangular series this summer They suffered a severe setback when Zaheer Abbas was injured by a fast rising ball from Jeff Thomson in the game before the first Test Despite the resultant rib injury, the Pakistani batsman, who topped the County averages in England earlier this year, declared that he would indeed be taking the field at Perth Thomson immediately retaliated by saying that he would give Abbas exactly the same treatment Of course, the upshot of the whole affair was that Abbas was not included in the squad although in retrospect his sickness might perhaps have given Pakistan's batting the stability if so desperately required

Miandad won the toss but could not make a decision immediately Strangely, he rushed back in to the dressing room to discuss the situation with the rest of his players and it was some time before he informed Greg Chappell that the Australians would be taking first strike Despite a good start by Laird and Wood, the Australians collapsed for 180 but Pakistan crumbled for 62 Chappell's men put on 424 in their second innings before the innings was closed and finally it was left to Miandad and Wasim Raja to delay the inevitable

Australia fielder Jeff Thomson as the third fast bowler, with Geoff Lawson taking the 12th man's place. This meant that Thommo was making a comeback to the Test arena after a lapse of 23 months but this time he was relegated to the position of first change bowler He bowled well although he did not have much to do in Pakistan's disastrous first innings but in the second he showed, despite a slightly modified bowling action, that he has lost little of his old fire

Pakistan also fielded three fast bowlers, Imran Khan, Sarfraz Nawaz and Sikander Bakht, with Iqbal Qasim and Wasim Raja sharing the tasks of the spinners. Imran and Sarfraz had Australia's openers, Wood and Laird in trouble in the home team's first innings and there were no strokes played, so to speak. The scoreboard was kept ticking over but drives were few and far between as the edges and deflections mounted Laird was first to go but Wood was looking extremely confident by then, had even chosen to go for the hook and pull shots which earned him quite a few runs. He was looking set for a big score when he fell for 33 and when Chappell, Border, Hughes and Marsh went in quick succession, Australia were on the rocks.

There was no reason for such a collapse The pitch was in good shape, despite a few hairline cracks, and looked good for many runs, but Australia's batsmen never gave themselves time. The only one who looked as if he was in the process of building an innings was Graeme Wood, whose score of 33 ultimately proved to be the largest contribution to the Australian total What then caused Australia's downfall? Some inspired bowling by Imran Khan and Sarfraz Nawaz, but the pity of it was that, as has happened so often in the history of Test cricket, the men who set it up watched in horror as there own front line batsmen failed miserably to drive home the advantage

It seemed incredible that Pakistan would concede a first innings late after such an outstanding performance in the field, but that is precisely what happened The reason once again was some incredible bowling by Lillee and Alderman, coupled with some fatalistic batting by the Pakistanis after both their openers had gone with only 2 runs on the board, they came and went, an endless procession of helmeted zombies who seemed hypnotised by the magic of the Australian opening bowlers It seemed unbelievable that such a strong batting lineup should slide to the extent that it did. At 7 for 27, there was some speculation that Pakistan would be setting a new Test record for the lowest total in an innings but it was Sarfraz who gave the innings some measure of respectability with a fine disregard for the Australian bowlers, who had mauled his colleagues His innings included some good old-fashioned heaves in rustic style, but among his scoring strokes were two sizzling drives through the cover of Lillee that fetched him four runs apiece But it was Lillee who had the last laugh, finishing with five wickets for only 19 runs

The pitch was still playing true and it was clear that if Australia wanted to win the Test, they only had to keep the scoreboard moving, giving Pakistan a large total to chase in the 4th innings Greg Chappell needed so badly but the

Zaheer Abbas—badly missed




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Kim Hughes—delighted the crowd with his ton

Pakistani bowlers stuck manfully to their task. Although Chappell failed once again with the bat, vice-captain Kim Hughes delighted his home crowd with the kind of batting he had exhibited in the 1981 Centenary Test in England

Australia's chances of forcing a win rested largely on the shoulders of the deposed national skipper and he responded magnificently with the kind of mature innings his critics have hanged him for There were none of those risky shots, no lofted strokes over mid-wicket, no dancing down the pitch Hughes kept his head down and picked his shots with finesse of a surgeon. A century was there for the taking and Hughes and Laird played according to the situation Laird fell 15 runs short of his ton but Hughes marched on regardless in partnership with Allan Border Each run scored at this stage was another nail in Pakistan's coffin and the Australian batsmen refused to surrender the advantage that had looked like slipping away from them in the first innings of the game. Hughes got to 106 before he lost his wicket, but Border, Marsh and Yardley continued the good work Marsh forced the pace resulting to a good old-fashioned flog at times but fell just short of his 50

Chappell's declaration at 8 for 424 meant that Pakistan had to score 543 to win or, more realistically, they had to hold out for almost two days. It was obvious that they would not collapse as they had in their first innings, but they needed a long innings from each of their batsmen if they were to avoid defeat Terry Alderman put paid to their aspirations, removing both opening batsmen before the score had even reached 30 and by this time the pressure was really on the visitors But Javed Miandad at number three played just the sort of innings expected of a Test captain, even though he lost two partners in quick succession With Wasim Raja striding out to the crease, the Australians were within sight of victory.

The Pakistanis, however, had other ideas, presenting their bats to everything that Lillee, Alderman and Thomson threw at them They ducked out of the way of bouncers, avoided the pull shot, but went for the cover drive, the cut and the flicks that brought cheers of admiration from every corner of the field Even as the Australians closed in on them Miandad and Raja produced the best scoring rate of the match and it took 'Yardley to break te partnership, dismissing the Pakistani captain for a brilliant 79. That, of course, was the beginning of the end and Chappell's men soon achieved the victory that at one stage had seemed beyond their grasp



Wasim Raja—shared the task of spinners

There were outstanding performances on both sides in this incredibly topsy-turvy Test match—the bowling of Imran and Sarfraz in Australia's first innings, that of Lillee and Alderman when Pakistan collapsed in ruins, the defiance of Sarfraz with the bat as he became the only Pakistani batsman to reach double figures, the batting of Hughes in Australia's second innings, the bowling of off-spinner Bruce Yardley who took 6 wickets on Australia's road to victory and the batting of Miandad and Raja, who carried the fight back into Australia's camp

It was certainly not the pitch that contributed to the strange reversal of events The hairline cracks were still there on the final day But no worse than they had been earlier No There was nothing wrong with the pitch It was just inept batting that caused the collapses

And what of Yardley's amazing 6 wickets in the 4th innings of the match? It is food for thought that he was pitching his deliveries into the rough caused by Imran Khan running over the pitch while coming around the wicket to Border and Marsh earlier in the game

MCC vs BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI

Tourists continue to win

WHEN the visiting English side scored 98 for the loss of Graham Gooch, Geoff Cook and Bob Taylor at close of play on the first day in reply to the Board President's XI, with skipper Keith Fletcher, Ian Botham and Mike Gatting still to come in, it seemed a foregone conclusion that the visitors were going to etch up yet another triumph. This would only prove that the Vidharva Cricket Association wicket still remained their favourite. The Englishmen have thus far not conceded any match to any Indian side at Nagpur. They played five matches prior to Fletcher's side against the Board XI and have won on three occasions (1934, 1952 and 1977) and drawn twice in 1961 and 1964

As for the President's men, this was a very crucial encounter and they had to give it their all in view of the fact that the Indian team was being selected at the end of the second day's play for the first Test in Bombay. The team was a blend of Test stars and very promising juniors under the captaincy of Dilip Vengsarkar. Therefore, one came to the conclusion much before the match started that the contest would be more individual than team-based. The visitors, too, were experimenting, having to find the third seamer among Dilley, Lever and Allott

Undoubtedly, the dynamic Tamil Nadu all-rounder K. Srikkanth, who had launched an amazing sequences of hooks, pulls and straight drives at Pune for the Under-22 XI, made it clear to the tourists that he was no easy meat. But there were a few jarring notes in his gritty 66, off 94 balls. There were flashes of brilliance in between—among the eight 4s, he took three from one over of Underwood with a lofted drive, a cut and a pulled shot. But at the stroke of lunch Srikkanth sliced an on-drive off Underwood to Tavare at slip. Another highlight in his batting was the second wicket stand of 88 with his captain

On a spinning wicket, the match definitely looked like a low-scoring one. Perhaps the total of 202 all out was evidence enough The Board XI's score could have been ridiculously low had the visitors not dropped the dashing stroke-player Srikkanth twice and Sanjeeva Rao once in the initial stages.

With Rao out for 17 off Dilley, Vengsarkarr came in. Seeing the manner in which both Srikkanth and he were gradually building up a good score, Fletcher used the right tactics in replacing the seamers. They were certainly not suited to the spinning wicket. The duo of left-arm Underwood and Emburey spearheaded a menacing English attack after lunch. This made Vengsarkar go on the defensive and, in the process he fell to Emburey's leg trap. His exit began the collapse of the rest of the batsmen, who were skittled after the addition of only 79 runs. The majority of these runs came from the bold batting of Binny and Yashpal Sharma

The spin duo had really played havoc Underwood's clever variations of line, length, spin and pace enabled him to earn six scalps for 64 runs off 21.1 overs. Emburey captured three for 43 off 14 overs.

It was equally disheartening to see the Board's pacemen proving inconsequential. Deepak did not have the rhythm and Gopal Sharma was out of luck. What was left for Vengsarkar was to introduce spin and Kirti Azad proved to be the perfect foil when at the draw of stumps, there was a sudden change in the match. Azad had Cook off a defensive stroke and was caught by Arun Lal for 39, which included a partnership stand of 75 with Tavare after Gooch fell to a catch

Derek Underwood—still dangerous



at mid-on by Gopal Sharma. Sharma had Taylor with a diving catch off Azad.

The following day, the pitch continued to be adverse and as many as 16 wickets fell. The tourists went in to bat with the overnight score of 96 for three. It was Kirti Azad who continued the rout, sending back Tavare, Fletcher, Botham, Dilley and Gatting, to record career-best bowling figures of 27-7-63-7 Azad, who had played in one Test in New Zealand, could have had a better bowling average had a few catches not been missed—and even the total of the English team would have been less than the final 243

With a slender lead of 41 runs, the Board XI began their second knock rather disastrously and it seemed at one stage that they would crumble before the day was over Srikkanth, who handled the visitors with author-

Kirti Azad—back in the reckoning





Srikkanth—deserving Test cap

ity in the first innings, went back to the pavilion for one This was a rude shock to the team. Fletcher began the attack with Lever and Underwood, sharing the new ball with Lever, beat the Tamilian opener in the air and off the pitch to shatter his castle like a house of cards in the very second ball of the spinner's first over As for Test prospect Sanjeeva Rao, this was a terrible match for he could do precious little as an opener He went back when Lever, noticing Rao's leg stump unguarded, brought one round his legs to dismiss him for a duck Lever's next victim was Arun Lal The seamer slanted a delivery, catching the batsman on the wrong foot and forcing him to offer a catch behind the wicket for no score When three wickets were down for less than 10 runs, Vengsarkar came to the rescue Though he made only 25, he and Chopra actually held the fort for over an hour Otherwise, the innings might have collapsed at close because at the tea interval, the Board XI were four for a meagre 54. For some time, the pair were able to thwart the spin duo but all of a sudden the calm Vengsarkar received a beast of a ball from Emburey It was too late for the skipper to change his stance for the rising ball and he offered a catch to Botham Chopra, who scored a plucky 35 with the sweep and the cut, fell to Emburey's floater while trying to cut It was Kirti Azad's turn to exhibit his prowess with the willow like he did with the ball. He put together a gutsy 24 He had lofted Emburey for a six but he was caught by Gooch while attempting another off Underwood. His performance made him an automatic choice for the first Test squad.

But the period of pain was not over and Binny, after playing cool for about 40 minutes, suddenly became rash and swung with his feet away from the ball only to find his leg stump pegged by Emburey for 10. The spinner's lethal spell restricted the runs Underwood then sent back Gopal Sharma and Zulfiqar Parkar in the same over when the scoreboard read 136 But amid this mess, Yashpal Sharma stood out as a tower of strength and batted competently to see the day through with 34 The team total was 137 for nine

On the final day, Test discard Yashpal and nightwatchman Randhir Singh put up a gallant fight for 55 minutes, putting on a 40 run partnership before the innings closed at 176

The Englishmen were left with the simple task of accumulating 136 runs in 245 minutes for their third successive victory on the current tour they did it with the loss of five wickets But the story might have been different had the Board team not dropped chances and had Yashpal Sharma got good support from his other seasoned colleagues in the second innings. Nagpur, thus, still remains the Englishmen's lucky wicket—four victories and two draws

A CORRESPONDENT, Nagpur

Sportsworld Exclusive

Chauhan out in the cold

MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI

EXCLUDING a number of opposing slips and bowlers, there are many who will always consider C. P. S. Chauhan an unlucky player: Chauhan himself included, but quite resigned to his fate. After all, to play 40 Test matches, never to score a hundred and yet be marginally behind Hobbes and Sutcliffe in the number of opening partnerships of a hundred and more is no mean achievement More so, if one considers that the famed and much-lauded pair of Merchant and Mushtaq Ali, opening together, managed to reach three figures only three times And now the selectors have added insult to injury



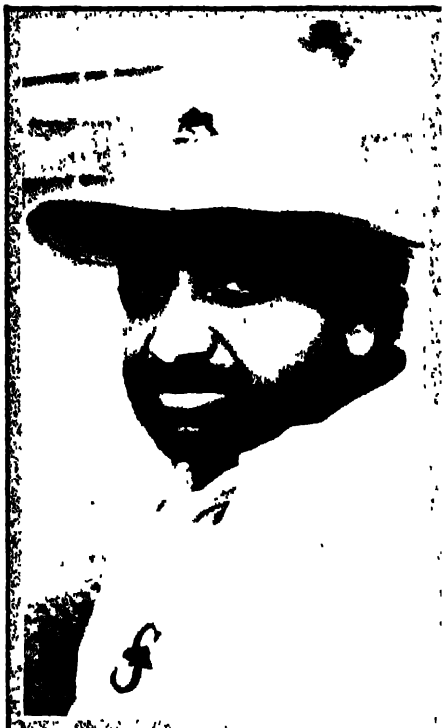
Sunil Gavaskar—Born on July 10, 1949, Gavaskar is the captain of the Indian cricket team and is the most dependable batsman in the side. Gavaskar is a prolific scorer of runs, who made his first class debut for Vizir Sultan Colts XI in the Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup in 1966-67. He played his first-ever Test match at Port of Spain against West Indies on March 6, 1971.

Chauhan may not have scored many runs in the limited number of games that he has played this season But neither has Vishwanath Chauhan played for the Rest of India, which can only mean that he had not been discarded The fact that he was not given a chance against the tourists leads one to believe that a few days back, the selectors had him clearly marked as Gavaskar's partner, at least for the first Test.

With this background, to disregard his past performance and to dump him unceremoniously shows that forethought is not exactly one of the Selection Committee's strong points. Chauhan, indeed, must be a perplexed man He has done nothing to deserve this sort of haphazard and cavalier treatment, and he can certainly, if he so wishes, take consolation in that there are many who are just as perplexed Unless the selector from his own State was prepared to ditch him, it is inconceivable that he could have been dropped from the side. If indeed this was the case, it could well be an example of external pressure being applied, and the inclusion of Kirti Azad at a time when the Delhi and



Chetan Chauhan—Played 40 Tests, total runs 2084, highest score 93, average 31 57 and has taken one wicket



G. R. Vishwanath—Born in 1949, Gundappa Vishwanath is the first Indian to score a century against all countries. He is a right-hand batsman who hits the ball with a wonderous touch and timing. Like Gavaskar, his judgement and footwork are excellent. He made his Test debut against Australia at Kanpur in 1969 and scored 137 runs in second innings.



Sandip Patil—Sandip Patil is a hard hitting right-hand batsman. He usually bats at No. 5. He made his Test debut against Pakistan in India in 1980 Early this year in Australia, he batted superbly against Lillee & Co, and scored a magnificent century.

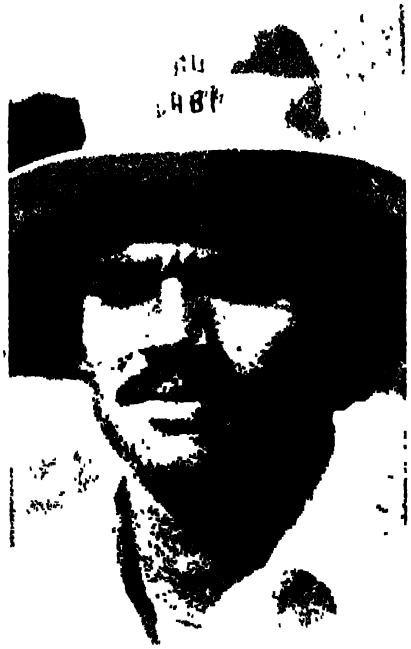


Madan Lal—Born in 1951, Madan Lal is a right-hand fast-medium bowler with an excellent action, although lacking the physical strength necessary for a fast bowler to possess. He is an enthusiastic fielder and also bats effectively for his side. He made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1974.

District Cricket Association is in deep trouble may well indicate the true source of this pressure

Azad is a Minister's son and the gentlemen who have run the D.D.C.A for the past 20 years are expert in the art of ingratiation Chauhan had to go because he was expendable while others clutch at straws to save themselves

There is no doubt that Azad himself nor the Hon Minister have any idea of the type of music being played in the background, and he must have been pleasantly surprised at his inclusion, especially since his performance has yet to warrant it He is, if he settles down, a player for the future, but at this moment Arun Lal has the edge And if the selectors are going by



Kirti Azad—Born in 1959, Kirti Azad is a hard hitting right-hand batsman. He is also a useful off-break bowler. He made his Test debut against Australia early this year.

Azad's bowling performance on a spiteful Nagpur wicket and intend to project him as India's fifth bowler, all they will see are smiles of satisfaction on the English faces In fact, the selectors have no choice but to do exactly this, for to go into a five-day match with only five batsmen or only four bowlers is to look for trouble.

Elsewhere, the Selection Committee has played safe Madan Lal has forced his way back quite legitimately and Shastri has shown the right temperament for the big occasion

Against her, India face an experienced opposition There is little flamboyancy in the batting, except for Botham's belligerence Unlike the West Indians or even the Australians, runs will be accumulated not by moving down the wicket to the spinners,



Syed Kirmani—Born on December 29, 1949, Syed Kirmani is a right-hand batsman and wicketkeeper of great calibre. He made his first appearance in Test cricket against New Zealand at Auckland on January 24, 1976



Kapil Dev—Born on January 6, 1959, Kapil Dev is a genuine fast bowler, an enthusiastic fielder and a lusty hitter of the ball. Making his Test debut against Pakistan at Faisalabad on October 16, 1978, Kapil is the youngest player in Test cricket to achieve the "double."



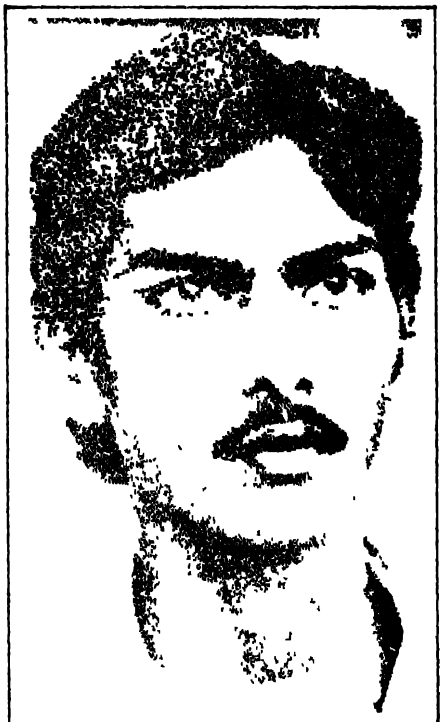
Dilip Doshi—Born on December 22, 1947, Dilip Doshi is a slow left-arm spinner. He is the seniormost cricketer in the Indian team, making his Test debut against Australia at Madras on September 11, 1979.



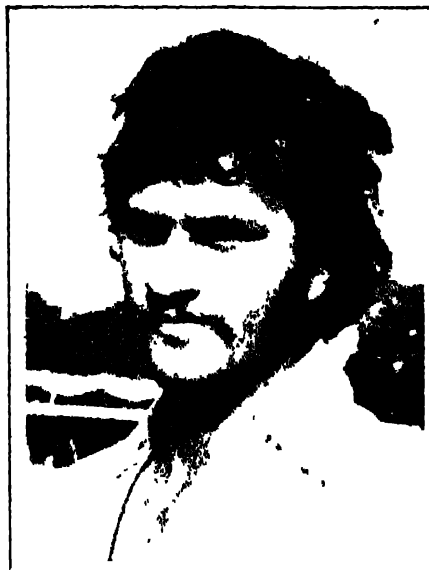
Dilip Vengsarkar—Born on April 6, 1956, Vengsarkar is a right-hand batsman who, though currently bats at No. 3, can either open the innings or bat lower down the order. He made his Test debut against New Zealand at Auckland on January 24, 1976.



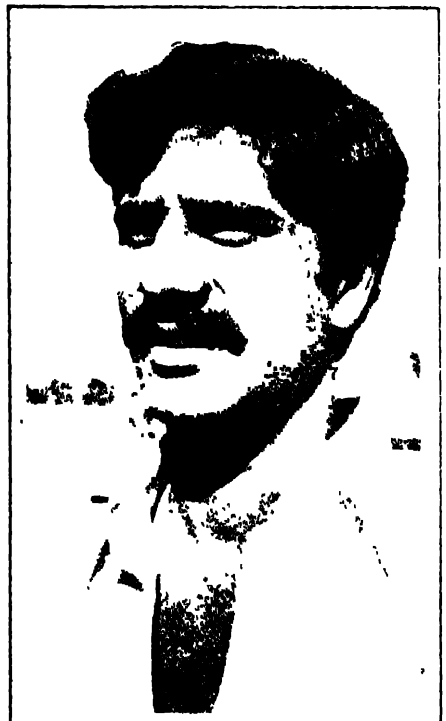
Shivlal Yadav—Born on January 26, 1957, Shivlal Yadav is a right-hand off-spin bowler. He made his Test debut against Australia at Bangalore on September 19, 1979.



Ravi Shastri—Ravi Shastri is a left-hand spinner who made his Test debut against New Zealand early this year. He also bats effectively and will surely prove his competence as an all-rounder in Test cricket.



Roger Binny—Roger Binny was called up as a last-minute replacement for Sandip Patil in case the latter was not fit before the first Test. Patil was injured before England's match against West Zone at Baroda. The 26-year-old Roger Binny is a fast medium bowler, making his Test debut against Australia at Bangalore in 1979-80 series. He is a brilliant fielder and bats right-handed.



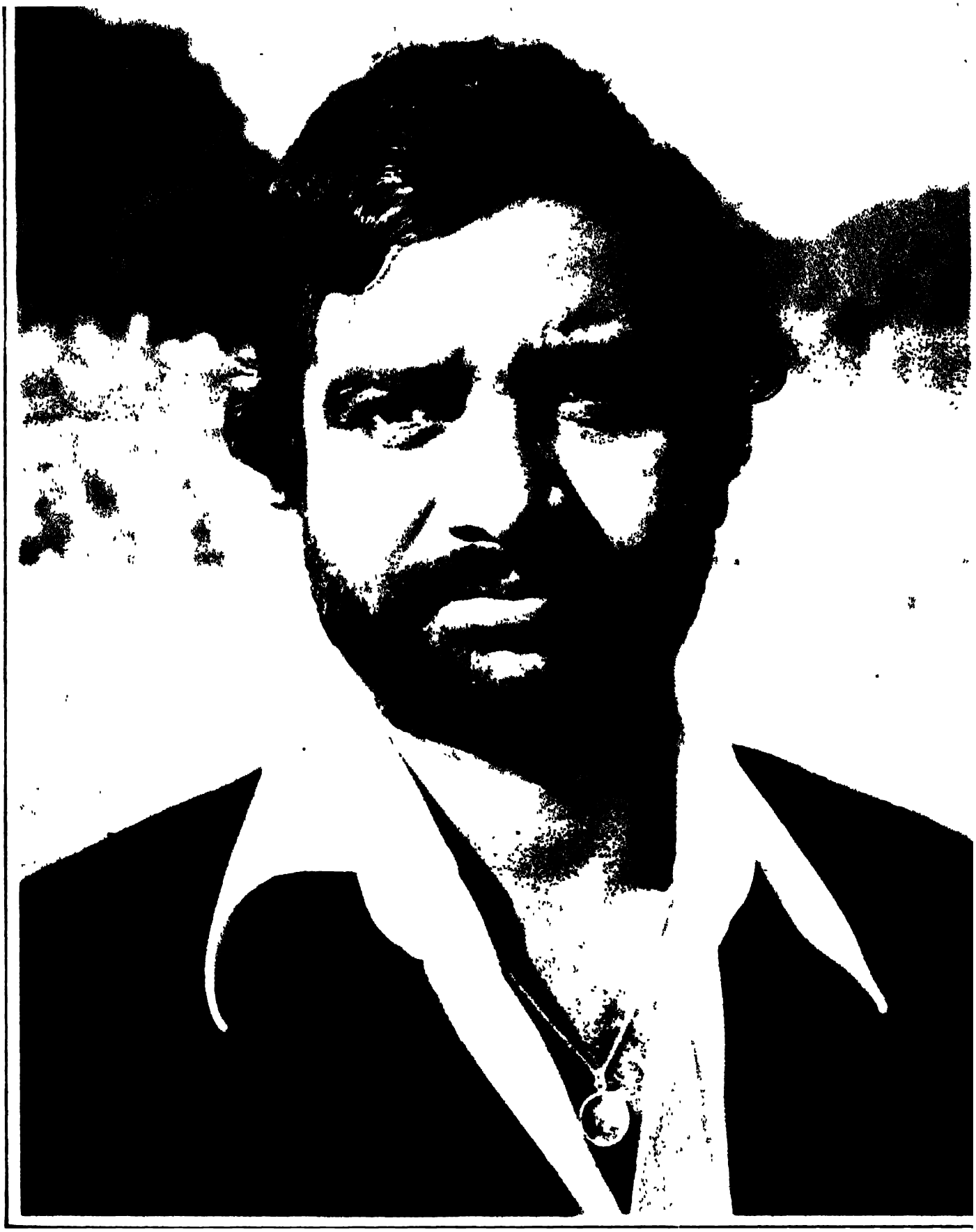
K. Srikkanth—A hard hitting left-hand batsman, Srikkanth will open the Indian innings with Gavaskar at Bombay in the first Test against England. He is a promising batsman who is expected to shine with the bat.

but by staying within the crease and waiting. The bowling, given normal Indian conditions, will be more determined than dangerous. With Botham the only general all-rounder, probably batting at No 6, England will have the choice of picking an attack to suit the wicket, which is a luxury India cannot afford. It will be either four seamers and Underwood or three seamers and two spinners. The batting, even if it is unlikely to tear apart the bowling, will be difficult to upset, and generally as things stand, England will be a better balanced side.

In the end, it will depend on which captain will be able to sustain the maximum effort over the next few weeks and at this, Fletcher has an advantage.

England is here after beating Australia, while the last tour against New Zealand did not see India at its best.

GUNDAPPA
RANGANATH VISHWANATH
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



For your record book

FIGURES AND FEATS

INDIA vs ENGLAND

ENGLAND has been the most frequent visitor to India among the different cricket playing countries. The forthcoming tour of India will be the seventh full visit by an English side to India. It should be mentioned that England were the first cricketing country to visit India and play an official Test series. Apart from these seven visits an English side played a Test at Bombay last year to celebrate the Board of Control for Cricket in India's Golden Jubilee.

TOTAL

INDIA vs ENGLAND

India

Tests	Won	Drawn	Lost
58	7	24	27

Rival Captains

Year	Venue	England	India
1932	England	D R Jardine	C K Nayudu
1933-34	India	D R Jardine	C K Nayudu
1936	England	G O Allen	Maharaj of Vizianagarm
1946	England	W R Hammond	Nawab of Pataudi (Sr)
1951-52	India	N D Howard D.B Carr(5th Test)	V S Hazare
1952	England	L Hutton	V S Hazare
1959	England	P B H May M C Cowdrey (4th & 5th Tests)	D.K Gaekwad P Roy (2nd Test)
1961-62	India	E.R Dexter	N J Contractor
1964	India	M J K Smith	Nawab of Pataudi (Jr)
1967	England	D B Close	Nawab of Pataudi (Jr)
1971	England	R Illingworth	A L Wadekar
1972-73	India	A R Lewis	A L Wadekar
1974	England	M H Denness	A L Wadekar
1976-77	India	A W Greig	B S Bedi
1979	England	J M Brearley	S Venkataraghavan
1980	India	J M Brearley	G R Vishwanath

Highest Total for an Innings

For England

In England	633-5 decl	1st Test	Birmingham	1979	1964*
In India	559-8 decl	5th Test	Kanpur		

For India

In England	510	1st Test	Leeds	1967	1951-52
In India	485-9 decl	2nd Test	Bombay		

Lowest Total for an Innings

For England

In England	101	3rd Test	The Oval	1971
In India	159	3rd Test	Madras	1972-73

For India

In England	42	2nd Test	Lord s	1974
In India	83	3rd Test	Madras	1976-77

Highest Individual score

By England

In England	246 n o	G Boycott	1st Test	Leeds	1967
In India	179	D L Amiss	1st Test	Delhi	1976 77

By India

In England	221	S M Gavaskar	4th Test	The Oval	1979
In India	203 n o	Nawab of Pataudi (Jr)	4th Test	New Delhi	1964

Most runs in a series (By a player)

For England

In England	399 (4 Tests)	at 79 80	L Hutton	1952
India	594 (5 Tests)	at 99 00	K F Barrington	1961-62

For India

In England	542 (4 Tests)	at 77 42	S M Gavaskar	1979
In India	586 (5 Tests)	at 83 71	V L Manjrekar	1961-62

Most wickets in a match

For England

In England	11 93	A Bedser	2nd Test	Manchester	1946
	11 145	A Bedser	1st Test	Lord s	1946
In India	13-106	I Botham	Jubilee Test	Bombay	1980

For India

In England	8-167	L Amarnath	2nd Test	Manchester	1946
	8-114	B S Chandrasekhar	3rd Test	The Oval	1971
In India	12-108	V Mankad	5th Test	Madras	1951-52

Most wickets in a series

For England

In England 29 (4 Tests) at 13 31 a piece F S Trueman 1952

In India 29 (5 Tests) at 17 55 a piece D L Underwood 1976-77

For India

In England 17 (5 Tests) a piece at 34 65 S P Gupte 1959

In India 35 (5 Tests) at 18 91 a piece B S Chandrasekhar 1972-73

Record wicket partnerships

For England (vs India)

159	1st wkt	P E Richardson and G Pullar	1st Test	Bombay	1961-62
221	2nd wkt	D L Amiss and J H Edrich	2nd Test	Lord s	1974
169	3rd wkt	R Subba Row and M J K Smith	5th Test	The Oval	1959
266	4th wkt	W R Hammond and T S Worthington	3rd Test	The Oval	1936
254	5th wkt	K W R Fletcher and A W Greig	5th Test	Bombay	1972-73
171	6th wkt	I T Botham and R W Taylor	Jubilee Test	Bombay	1980
103	7th wkt	A P E Knott and R A Hutton	3rd Test	The Oval	1971
168	8th wkt	R Illingworth and P Lever	2nd Test	Manchester	1971
83	9th wkt	K W H Fletcher and N Gifford	3rd Test	Madras	1972-73
57	10th wkt	J T Murray and R N S Hobbs	3rd Test	Birmingham	1967

For India (vs England)

213	1st wkt	S M Gavaskar and C Chauhan	4th Test	The Oval	1979
192	2nd wkt	F Engineer and A Wadekar	5th Test	Bombay	1972-73
211	3rd wkt	V M Merchant and V S Hazare	1st Test	Delhi	1951-52
		V Mankad and V S Hazare	2nd Test	Lord s	1952
222	4th wkt	V S Hazare and V L Manjrekar	1st Test	Leeds	1952
190*	5th wkt	Nawab of Pataudi (Jr) and C G Borde	4th Test	New Delhi	1964
109	6th wkt	V S Hazare and D G Phadkar	1st Test	Leeds	1952
153	7th wkt	C G Borde and S A Durrani	2nd Test	Bombay	1964
101	8th wkt	R G Nadkarni and F M Engineer	5th Test	Madras	1961-62
54	9th wkt	G S Ramchand and S G Shinde	2nd Test	Lord s	1952
51	10th wkt	R G Nadkarni and B S Chandrasekhar	3rd Test	Calcutta	1964

BOMBAY TEST NOVEMBER 27—DECEMBER 2

BOMBAY IN THE PAST

BOMBAY has been a lucky Test venue for England England has played India 7 times at Bombay winning the first one in 1933-34 and the last one in 1980 The remaining five Tests in 1951 52 1961-62 1964 1972-73 and 1976-77 were drawn The following are the statistical highlights of the England vs India Tests at Bombay

YEAR	TOSS	BRIEF SCORES WITH RESULT
1933-34	India	England won by 9 wickets (England 438 40 1 India 219 258)
1951 52	India	Drawn (India 485 9 decl , 208 England 456, 55-2)
1961-62	England	Drawn (England 500-8 decl 184 5 decl India 390, 180 5)
1964	India	Drawn (England 233 206 3 India 300 249-8 decl)
1972 73	India	Drawn (England 480 67 2 India 448 244-5 decl)
1976 77	India	Drawn (England 317 152-7 India 338, 192)
1980	India	England won by 10 wickets (England 296 98-0, India 242 and 149)

HIGHEST TOTALS

For England	500-8 decl	1st Test 1961 62	For England	233	2nd Test 1964
For India	485-9 decl	2nd Test 1951 52	For India	149	Jubilee Test 1980

CENTURIES

For INDIA(6)

155	V S Hazare	2nd Test	1951-52
140	P Roy	2nd Test	1951-52
121	F M Engineer	5th Test	1972 73
118	L Amarnath	1st Test	1933 34
113	G R Vishwanath	5th Test	1972-73
108	S M Gavaskar	5th Test	1976-77

For ENGLAND(6)

175	T W Graveney	2nd Test	1951-52
151	K F Barrington	1st Test	1961-62
148	A W Greig	5th Test	1972 73
136	B H Valentine	1st Test	1933-34
114	I T Botham	Jubilee Test	1980
113	K W R Fletcher	5th Test	1972 73

5 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS OR 10 WICKETS IN A MATCH

For INDIA

5-33	K D Ghavri	5th Test	1980
5-52	K D Ghavri	Jubilee Test	
5-90	M Nissar	1st Test	1933-34
5-135	B S Chandrasekhar	5th Test	1976-77

For ENGLAND

6-58	I Botham	Jubilee Test	1976 77
7-48			1980
5 55	M S Nichols	1st Test	1933-34
5-84	D L Underwood	5th Test	1972-73

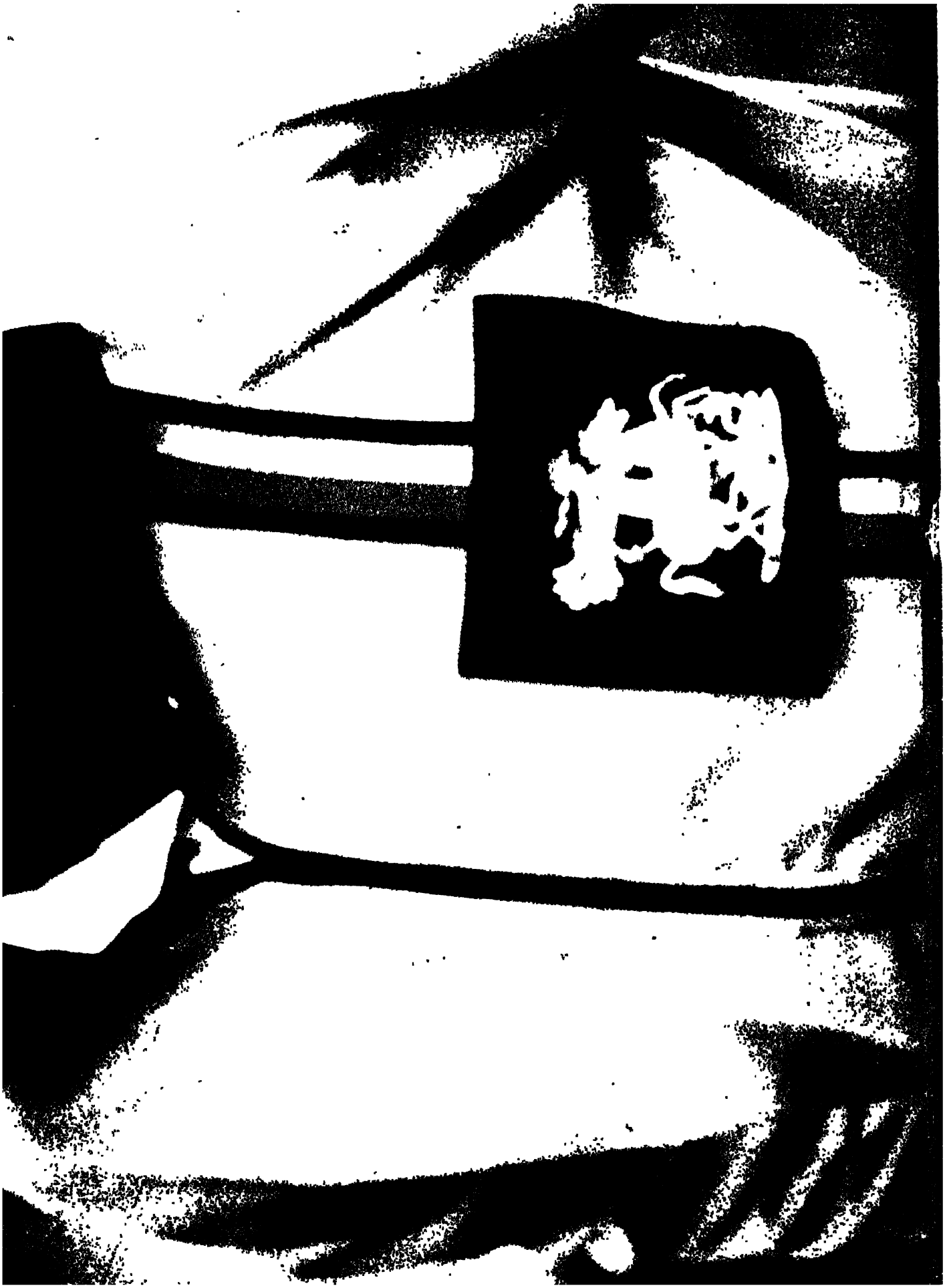
Compiled by VIJAYAN BALA

sportsworld

DEREK UNDERWOOD

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA





HIMALAYAN RALLY

Confusion in snow

UNFAMILIARITY with the regulations leading to some hilarious situations was the highlight of the closing stages of the second Himalayan rally which ended in the capital recently. This came about as many participants lodged protests with the authorities in a bid to reverse the results and even get some sections of the 3,834 km rally route cancelled.

The Jalorie Pass, situated at a height of 10,300 feet in Himachal Pradesh, was the bone of contention. Light snow had been falling on the pass for about four hours when the cars began leaving Narkhanda at 6 p m. on the fifth evening of the rally on their way up to the pass on the third leg that would take them to Manali for an overnight halt

The organisers, the Himalayan Rally Association, in fact, had to take a decision on whether to let the rally go through the pass or take the cars on an alternative route to Manali via Simla and Bilaspur The police reported that the pass was snowbound, but H.R.A Chairman Nazir Hossein insisted, "The pass might be snowbound for normal traffic, but not for a rally." He was supported by the clerk of the course, Gopal Mahadevan, who was in favour of letting the rally go through

His opinion was soon justified Word came through at 8 p.m. that the first vehicle, an Indian Army Jonga driven by Major Ravi Kapur has crossed the pass. Ten other vehicles, a Jonga, two Mahindra jeeps, a Datsun 160J, two Mercedez Benz Koels (entered by Indians), three Premier Padminis and an Ambassador, also got through on the first attempt. Only the sixteen other cars following them did not.

Early in the morning of November 13, the rally marshal, who was sitting atop the pass in a radio vehicle, turned back for Narkhanda when he found no other cars coming through. On his way back he found a number of cars stranded along the route and advised the drivers to return in their own interest This they did, and by dawn the same day, all of them were back in Narkhanda.

Now what? Narkhanda control got in touch, via radio, with the rally headquarters at the Maurya Sheraton in the capital and asked for instructions "Give them another chance", the HQ said and advised Narkhanda that the Manali time control would be kept open till 6 p.m the same evening—an additional 21 hours—and should any of the 16 cars make it by then, they could still run in the rally and qualify as finishers, though they would pick up a massive number of penalty points

Two of these 16 called it a day at Narkhanda and two set off on their own The remaining 12 left in two



Co-driver Aslam Khan (in dark glasses) pours champagne into Ramesh Khoda's mouth standing atop their Datsun 160J after their victory



Ramesh Khoda (left) and co-driver Aslam Khan give the victory salute after winning the car rally

batches of six each Four made it to Manali on time and rejoined the rally by when the other 11 had been flagged off at 4 p.m on the start of the fourth leg. That left 15 cars still on the road But by the time the rally got to Rai the final audit and bunching control station, there were a lot many more cars as some had taken an alternative route down to Rai, while some others had made a detour to Manali and joined the regular rally from there

However, only 13 cars were provisionally placed by the time the rally terminated in Delhi, two of the 15 starters from Manali having dropped out on the way.

This was when the protests started. The drivers, who had to return to Narkhanda, contended that the rally should be terminated at that point as the slush and mud, turned up by the cars ahead of them, had made it impossible for them to go through. Some drivers even alleged that many cars in the initial batch had been unfairly helped by pushing and towing and should thus be disqualified. Mr Hoosein countered these allegations saying that such actions were perfectly justified.

Others claimed that the only way for them to get through to Manali was via Simla, while still others said that they had come down to Rai because they thought that this was what they were supposed to do.

Another group of drivers said that the decision asking them to turn back to Narkhanda was unjustified as no clearcut orders to this effect had come through from the H.R.A. headquarters and that the Marshal on the spot had acted on his own.

Eventually, the stewards, who adjudicated on the protests, took the only logical way out. They gave a "dead time" of 435 minutes to the cars who had been unable to go through the Jalorie Pass on the first attempt and also ruled that all those cars who had got through to Manali, by whichever route, would be deemed to have run in the rally, no matter how late they were at Manali.

This brought in another nine cars into the rally, the four who had come down to Rai being disqualified

This apart, there was a silly protest from the Kirloskar entries—four diesel-powered Mercedez Benz Koels, only two of which finished the rally The Kirloskars brought in a lawyer in a bid to convince the stewards of their protest that winner Ramesh Khoda's Datsun 160J, had an illegally mounted headlight.

The relevant rule on this issue states that the mounting should in no case be above the windscreen, though the actual light may be

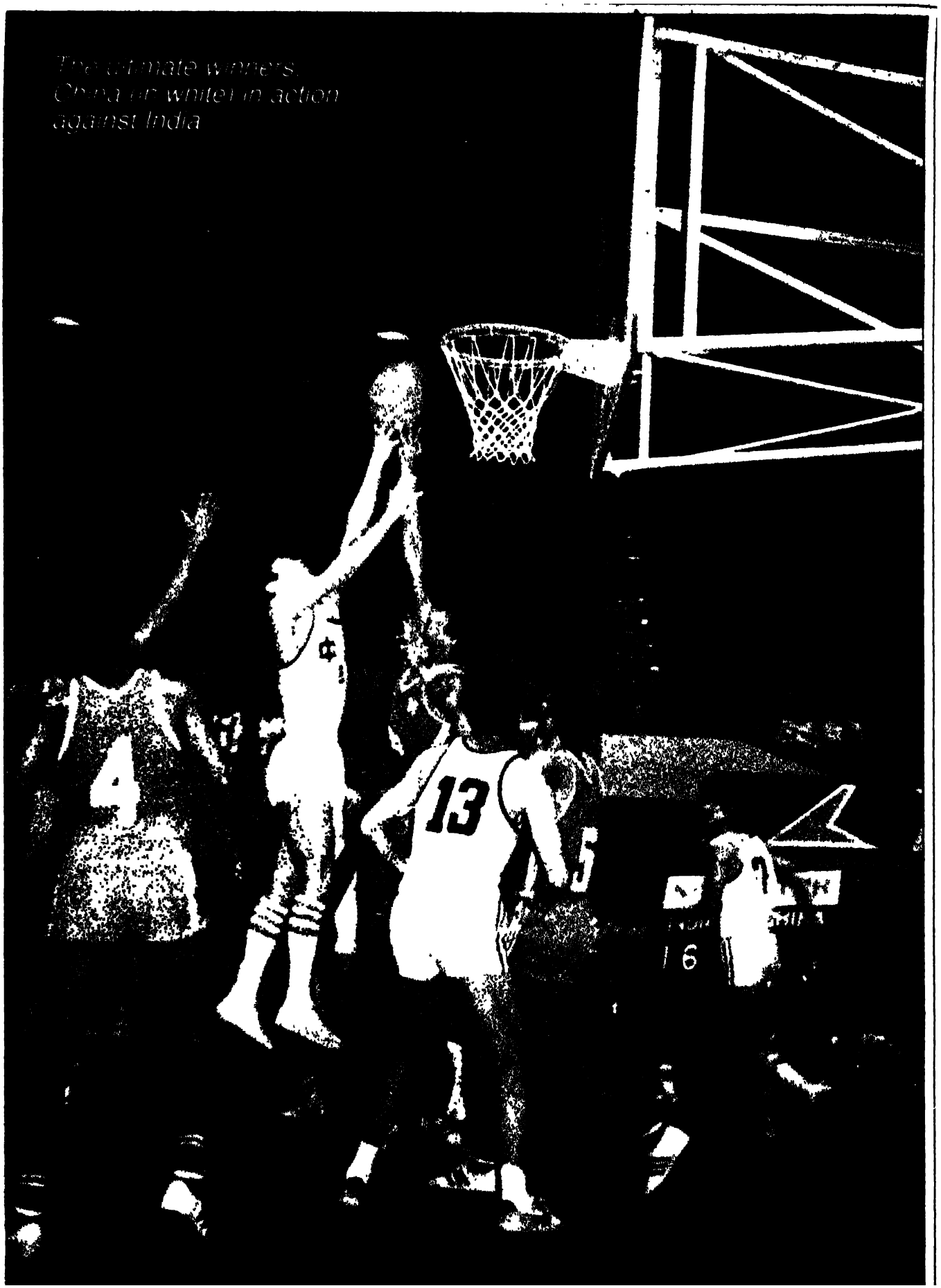
"Good Lord," Kenyan Khoda's team manager Ashok Bhalla said, "Why can't these guys go through the rule book properly? We've got photographs to show that our lights are correctly mounted "

The stewards inspected the car and threw out the protest Perhaps, in protest the Mercedez drivers and crews stayed away from the Himalayan rally ball on the night of the prize distribution ceremony.

The protests apart, the rally ran without any hitch, barring the minor stone throwing incidents at Baroda, Jaipur and Hapur Only one short section—170 km up to the Rohtang Pass from Manali and back—had to be cancelled due to snow, but that was a factor beyond the organisers' control

To sumup, it would not be wrong to say that the rally has come to stay, and thank God for that. Nazir Hoosein, in fact, says that he is quite confident of hazarding a guess that at least 25 foreign drivers would enter the race next year.

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, Delhi



The ultimate winners. Obinna White in action against India

ASIAN BASKETBALL

China supreme

HANUMAN SINGH reports on the championship

YET another Asian Basketball Championship ended. In this championship two courts were used This was done to facilitate early finish as some of the teams have international engagements ahead. The race for supremacy was limited to China, Korea and Japan and no other team posed any serious threat to them China were pre-tournament favourites because of their past performance Since their return to FIBA and ABC in the mid-Seventies, China were third at the Tehran Asiad, won the Eighth ABC at Bangkok and since then, retained the title at three ABC competitions

China had everything that a team should have—tall players, good shooters and swift movement The South Koreans, who last won the ABC twelve years ago, surprised everybody with their vast improvement They move fast and quickly take up shooting positions The Koreans' main assest is fast breaks and they believe in playing a pacy game Height is the Koreans' greatest disadvantage This way, the Chinese are blessed with two players who are just 'unreachable'

I have seen the Japanese team as Asia's best combination At Nagoya, they fought gallantly and lost to China in the final At Calcutta, I saw two of their top shooters missing I can't recollect their names But Japan could have made a difference in their position They lost to the Koreans because they could not keep pace against fast breaks I think Japan will have to work hard to see that they play fast basketball, else they may slip further down.

The championship was organised in a grand manner. But I think the playing surface needed more attention It should have been synthetic, which would have made the play faster Standardwise, I still think Asia is far from the top in international basketball I have seen some of the European teams during the Moscow Olympics and I feel that Asia is no match to the Europeans and the Americans I was happy to see Thailand improving its position from ninth in the last championship to seventh Iran started well and played a great game against Pakistan to record one of the finest victories After the Japan-Korea match, it was the Iran Vs Pakistan tie which was a real cliff-hanger Iran did not plan their attack properly in other encounters, else they would have given a better display Iran finished eighth, a position which Iraq bagged at Nagoya But Iran did not take part at Nagoya The Iraqis didn't come to Calcutta Pakistan suffered heavily and from sixth position, they slipped down to tenth, despite the fact that they went on tour to China before coming to Calcutta The other lowly-placed teams are improving Hongkong, for example, went up one step In Asia, the competitions are few and far between The Inter-city championship, which will be staged at Hongkong, will give another opportunity to us before the Asian Games. In Hongkong, the B.F.I is planning to field a team called "Indian Starlets" which will be our national team

FOR the Calcutta ABC we had phased training, under the Indian coach Capt M Rajan at Patiala and Delhi Earlier Chansuriya of NIS was our coach, when we played the series against the Russians Then Rajan became our coach and trained the team till he was replaced about thirty days before the championship I think the Russian coach was invited very late. Before his joining Rajan had trained the team in a different way

But Surguyi is a hard-working coach. He tried to change our technique and pattern within a very short time We were a bit puzzled to adapt ourselves to his new technique He told us that his eyes were set on the next year's Asian Games and he was not taking the ABC seriously He doesn't like range shooting and some of us had to change our style completely

However, we could not achieve anything better than the fourth position But that we could have gained even under an Indian coach

We badly lack pivots like Khushi Ram and Matthews and shooters like Surinder Kataria and Haridutt We had only one good shooter I only wish they retain the team intact at least till the Asiad While China and Korea had changed only three players in their team which played at the Nagoya ABC, we had only three players from the last ABC team

Although the Netaji Indoor Stadium had few empty blocks, I have not seen a better and more knowledgeable crowd than at Calcutta before The ABC, which was organised so well, will give a boost to the game in the city

IT was my sixth ABC or in other words my twelfth year in international basketball I was the seniormost player in the championship I have played in Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Tokyo, Nagoya and Singapore I have enjoyed playing the game everywhere—but I considered it a great privilege to play in my own country and at one of the most beautiful and spacious stadia of Asia But I was unhappy to see the stands empty in the beginning It seemed that the game was not one which the Calcuttans relished But those who staved to watch the competitions must have felt the love the people of this city have for this game which at times can prove to be a great thriller, as was witnessed during the Pakistan-Iran match

After an impressive opening ceremony, we were at the courts to play against our neighbour Sri Lanka, who happened to be the weakest team in the tournament There is a growing tendency among the Asian nations to have foreign coaches for their teams We had Russian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and American coaches I think these foreign coaches are not imparting coaching in the way they should have

The jubilant Chinese players lift their coach after their victory in the final



V KHIL BHATTACHARYA

Snippets

BASKETBALL is not a very popular game in this State, but the people of Calcutta once again proved that they really love sports, no matter what type of game they have the occasion to witness and enjoy In the initial stages of the championship, the stands used to be near empty, but as the tournament progressed, spectators began purchasing daily tickets and thronging the stadium. The major portion of the seats, especially those just above the court in which China used to play, were occupied by members of the Chinese community of the city, who kept cheering their favourite team every now and then. The first two days did not see many spectators, but from the third day onwards, especially the day the match between Japan and India was played, people came in large numbers Things reached the climax during the finals when the stands were filled to capacity, with the Chinese spectators chanting: "We want China". After China won the championship, they were absolutely thrilled and some of them went inside the arena and presented the team with a bouquet. Coming back to the Japan-India match, the home crowd cheered their team and even shouted to distract the foreign players when they went for the free shots. But even that did not prevent the skilled Japanese from winning the tie.

But the next day was an anticlimax India was playing at court number one, against Malaysia, while the important match between Japan and Korea was taking place, at about the same time, at the adjacent court number two. The intelligent and sports conscious people of the city did not take much time to decide which game they would prefer to watch They chose the latter which decided either Korea or Japan would fight with China for the top honours That in spite of India playing at the adjacent court

REGARDING the Korea-Japan match, a thing ought to be mentioned The Koreans only fielded six players in the entire match, four of them playing without any rest [illegible] Jung Myune (4), Kim Dong [illegible]ng (7), Lee Chung Hee (8) and [illegible]an Soo (9), while Cho Dong [illegible]) and Park Jong Cheon (15) alternatively for the fifth And among the four who throughout, only five fouls committed· Kim (3), Lee (1) and Lee Min (1) After [illegible]nastic and thrilling victory, [illegible]yers lifted up their coach [illegible]ficials when they were cheering their victory. They were given a standing ovation when they left the court; and only when they left the arena, did the majority of the spectators turn their attention to the match between India and Malaysia.

SINCE the topic is about two courts, another thing comes to mind. Except for the last two days, there were two courts and the matches were held simultaneously, as can be evident from the abovementioned incident. While there were two courts, there was a general complaint amongst the spectators that this was not a good decision. Their line of thinking went something like this: if two good or important matches are taking place at the same time, one cannot watch and follow both at the same time. They were thinking in terms of having a single court and having some of the matches in the morning. But when only the centre court came into existence, for the last two days, there was a fresh complaint, contradicting the first. This time that was better, was the general feeling At least something was going on all the time, but when only one court was in operation, the period of interval seemed very boring. As the saying goes, you cannot please everybody, and no one seems to be satisfied with what one gets.

THERE were four giants in the championship: Mu Tiezhe (15), Ma Zhanzu (4) of China, Yasutaka (6) of Japan and our own Sunil Panda (6). All four were very popular members of their respective teams and the spectators really loved seeing their play. Though for the major portion of the matches they were cheered, they were also laughed at. This happened when Yasutaka once fell down with a thud in one of the matches. He could not get up on his own and had to seek the help of his colleagues. The spectators took the incident lightly and had a good laugh! But, overall, they were the most popular players in the championship, along with Kim of Korea, who was identified by his shaggy hair and brilliant playing abilities. And it was mainly due to him that Korea became the most popular team in the championship

IN direct contrast to the giants in the Chinese and Japanese teams, were the "shorties" in those sides. China's Liu Song (6) and Japan's Shuji (10). Both were very fast with the ball, also with the ability to slow down the game to suit the interest of the team But, what was really remarkable about them was their youthfulness and enthusiasm. They used to chase their opponents at the opponents' courts, fall back to help the defence and again went up for attacks. They made up for their lack of height with their determination and will-power.

ANOTHER incident involved Yasutaka. He was almost mobbed by autograph hunters when he had gone to do some marketing. He had gone along with some of his team-mates when he was suddenly recognised and pressed for autographs. He started obliging them but when the crowd swelled to several hundreds, he panicked and called for help. A wireless van finally rescued him and took him to his hotel. That he was not able to sit comfortably in the van was another matter.

TAILPIECES· During the Japan-Sri Lanka tie, a small locket had fallen from the chest of one of the players Even the giant Yasutaka helped in searching for it When he bent down, even then he was taller than most of the Sri Lanka players, who surely were the shortest lot as far as the whole team was concerned.

ON an accidental visit to one of the hotels in which the players were staying, it was noticed that the Chinese team was watching a movie (Von Ryan's Express) on a video. The leader of the delegation, literally had to push them away from the hall for it was lunch time for the players. And just after they had finished their lunch, which they must have gulped down, they were back again to watch the movie

AFTER the match, which decided the fourth and fifth places, between Philippines and India, some members of the Press went to the Indian coach to get his comments At that time, the Calcutta Dooradarshanwallahs came and whisked him away for an interview. That was fair enough, but what happened after that was unpardonable. When he came back to talk to the waiting people of the Fourth Estate, J. P. Mishra, an executive committee and selection committee member took him away to discuss whether he will go to Delhi or Nagpur. For them, it was more important to discuss those things, rather than seek the Russian coach's opinion about the state of basketball in India.

DURING the match between Philippines and India, the two electronic scoreboards at opposite corners of the court kept showing different timings, and the coach of the foreign team rightly protested. Incidentally, the scoreboards had been sent from the Regional Engineering College, Trivandrum.

SARAJIT DEB

done. They seem to ignore the playing conditions in Asia and train these players as if they were being coached in Europe.

Against Sri Lanka we scored a century. Against our 102 points they could muster only 27 points—and this is surely evident enough as to how weak they are. This was our first encounter and coach Surguy used this match for experimenting various combinations and variations We did well but we also knew that the Sri Lankans were very weak and there was nothing to be cheerful about.



The seven footers in action—China s Mu Tiezhe trying to snatch the ball from Yasutaka of Japan

China, on the other hand, also started with a century against Iran, whom the former literally toyed with and recorded a grand victory Similarly, Korea also made a glorious start with a fine victory over Singapore.

The second day saw one of the real cliff-hangers between Iran and Pakistan who, despite having been ahead with 13 points, surrendered the lead in the last couple of minutes Iran were trailing by four points but Ferozneh and Paahanoghadin combined very well between themselves and, to the surprise of everyone, gave their opponents a heavy blow. Ferozneh, a ball player, was in great form and feeding the shooters very well. He hardly committed any mistake and Pasha did the bulk of scoring In the closing stage, Pakistan fumbled and it was mispassing and poor interception which brought about their defeat.

Pakistan was, however, without their ace shooter Liakat Ali, who after coming to India realised that he was carrying a broken palm. He chipped the bone during the tour of China before the championship. Sad indeed.

Iran's shooting was appalling, but they tried to improve it. Had they concentrated on speedy bursts, they could have done better. Against Pakistan, they set the pace of the game and tried to make their rivals tired in order to keep pace with them It was a good tactic. I hoped that Iran would do even better in other matches, but they disappointed me.

The Pakistan team which played at Nagoya two years ago, looked far better There we managed to beat them by only one point to claim the fifth place

Both the Korean and the Chinese teams had an easy match against Thailand and Malaysia, against whom both of them scored more than a hundred points each

We did not get the expected resistance from Hong Kong and had an easy victory over them with a margin of 24 points. Lanky Panda used his height and so did Ajmer to do the bulk of scoring With this victory, we were assured of a berth in the super league or the championship proper

We have never beaten Japan in the past And we missed a chance to beat them at Calcutta. I have never rated the Japanese team very high

I think our coach Surguv Strailov, whom I respect highly, underestimated Sunil Panda and kept him glued to the bench too long. The Japanese defence was really tough and to score over the head of 224 cms long Yasutaka was as tough as climbing Mt Everest But, still, height was not the only factor The Japanese man-to-man defence was undoubtedly superb. Panda was well covered by Yasutaka, who immobilised the Indian giant for quite sometime This probably forced the Russian coach to rest Panda. I tried to keep the game alive by dribbling. But when we lost Ajmer due to five fouls committed by him and with Panda outside we were in an uneasy position We were ahead four times, but could not clinch the issue We lost by a margin of 13 points At the Nagoya championship, runners-up Japan won by a margin of 42 points. This time we had at least the satisfaction of reducing the margin.

Against Malaysia, everybody rated us the favourites. The coach advised us to play a cool and calculated game from the beginning. I too was asked to play a slow game It is difficult for me to play at a slower pace. It turned out to be a dull encounter with the players being changed very frequently. Ajmer should have been given a free hand in this match, as it would have been given him new confidence. But the coach sidelined him for most of the time True, we won the match but we should have won it more convincingly

China vs Korea

CHINA, who returned to the Asian basketball scene in the Seventies, became a super power in the Eighties. Now they have clinched the Asian title for the fourth time in succession with the greatest possible ease, which was a result of good forward-planning and excellent teamwork. The Koreans were actually expected to turn the tables on their Chinese rivals, but they failed to live up to the expectations. My experience tells me that it was one of the least contested battles I have ever seen. The short Koreans simply had no answer to the challenge posed by the tall Chinese players, especially Mu Tiezhe who seemed like the great wall of China keeping the Korean shooters at bay all the time.

The Koreans, however, started well, but could not penetrate the seemingly impregnable defence of the Chinese. Their shooters missed the target too often Despite having started with man to man marking, they had to switch over to zonal combination after the interval when China was leading 43-26

On the other hand, China depended heavily on Mu Tiezhe for keeping Korea's Lin Jung Myune and Kim Dong Kwang in control. And discharged his duty wonderfully. The entire stadium roared with laughter seeing the Koreans stoop to unfair methods in order to prevent Mu from scoring. But he was not the least disturbed by them and went on controlling the ball as if he were handling a tennis ball

The Koreans, perhaps, thought that the Chinese players would not be able to keep pace with their fast play. But the Chinese team gave a fitting reply by continuing to play at the pace set by the Koreans Ironically, the Koreans themselves found it difficult to match their opponents in speed

The Chinese shooters were very well fed by Lin Yulin, Guo Yong Lin and Ma Lianbao, who, though not given much exposure in the earlier matches, controlled the game in great style moving all over the court like a panther.

A keen battle was expected in the second half, but the Koreans never seemed determined to give their opponents a stiff challenge For them, Lee Chung Hee accounted for 90 per cent success in shooting, while on the Chinese side, Li Yulin hardly missed any chance to score

In fact, the Chinese were a superbly fit team. They planned their strategy according to what the situation warranted.

India vs Philippines

India had the best opportunities to beat the Philippines But the latter fought hard and won the match quite deservingly

Japan vs Korea

JAPAN, were given a good drubbing by the youthful Koreans. It was a top class match Though handicapped



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by their short height, the Koreans never relented in their attack. In fact, they overcame the handicap of height with their range of shooting. It was a see-saw battle from the beginning and the result was difficult to predict. Yasutaka, the tallest in the Japanese rank, proved really a menace to the ace Korean shooters who were immobilised by him in the first half. The Koreans excelled in interception, dribbling and passing. In skipper Kim Dong Kwang, they have a fine mover

India vs Korea

WHEN we entered the court to play against the Koreans, we knew that defeat was inevitable—and we really fared miserably. The Koreans were superbly fit and as a unit they could be compared to a well-oiled engine which never stops Our coach fielded the second string players mainly—Ajmer, Panda, Radheshyam and myself were not given much opportunity

The handicap of height never troubled the Koreans and their range of shooting compensated for it Skipper Kim Dong was given limited appearance and he took it easy

We lost 79-110 It was our second defeat, while on the other hand, it was the first time in the championship that a team scored more than 100 points I feel India could have narrowed the margin with the help of the first best five

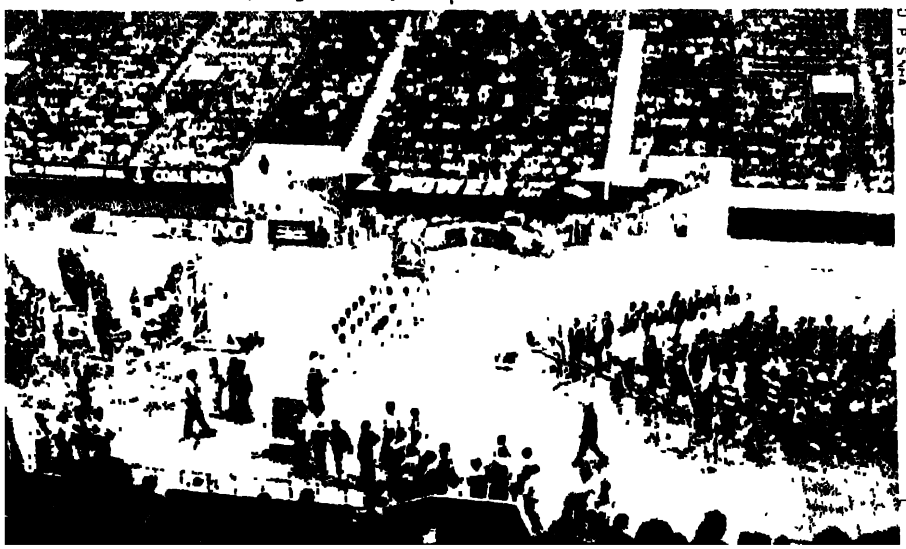
Japan vs China

THE China-Japan tie was an interesting show, as both the teams fielded their 'Gullivers' The Chinese guarded the 2 24 metre tall Yasutaka with the help of their almost equally tall Mu Tiezhe The Chinese scoring was restricted by Yasutaka China, who were leading by 12 points suffered a jolt when Mu Teizhe retired after committing five fouls. Then it seemed that Japan might turn the tide in their favour. But Zhanju, another tall player who replaced Mu, proved no less competent and was successful in keeping the Japanese at bay China owe their victory in this crucial match mainly to their tall players.



With Korea's Kwang lying on the ground China's Mu Tiezhe (15) about to basket

A panoramic view of the opening ceremony



India vs China

THE Chinese players are methodical in whatever they do. They plan their strategy much in advance and I have no hesitation to say that they are the best in all departments of the game. We knew that we were meeting the Asian champions whom we could hardly be expected to match despite our very best efforts The mighty Chinese team had consummate command over the game It was difficult to keep pace with them as they had their height as an added advantage But, except Panda, we had nobody to check their tall players. Actually, Panda was fielded more for checking the Chinese giants than earning points for our team We played a defensive game, our purpose being to prevent China from scoring and utilise all chances that came our way

Our opponents adopted zone-cum-man-to-man defence that caused considerable trouble for Panda. We played with our first five for ten minutes We found the Chinese players faster and swifter than us They were scoring frequently I was not allowed much freedom by them and there was hardly any scope for me to feed our shooters. As the first five failed miserably the coach adopted various combinations, but only in vain

We were trailing by 50 points Surprisingly, Mu, the tallest in the Chinese team was hardly played Had he been there the Chinese would have scored more Our defence simply fell like nine pins We were neither physically nor technically equipped to take on such a formidable team I strongly felt that to achieve something significant in international basketball either we have to train ourselves the way the short Koreans do or search for more tall players like Panda Only then we can expect to do well in the international arena

Among the Chinese players Guo Yong Lin and He Jhua did really well. We tried to restrict the defeat margin to less than 50 points and we had the consolation of achieving it.

Philippines vs Japan

THIS match on the other court was really an interesting show However, Japanese team perhaps, was the weakest side that I have seen in my last 12 years in international basketball They had to fight hard against the American-coached Philippines for third spot in the championship. The Philippines possess the best players in Asia, but since most of their good players became professionals they are always finding it difficult to form their national team In that country the game is very popular and big money is involved in the professional circuit. They gave the Japanese team some anxious moments though the latter, with the help of their height outsmarted them with a narrow margin of 99-82

(Next week we carry the versions of some of the international coaches)

No more Wimbledon for me

In an exclusive interview, Eliot Teltscher talks about the various aspects of the game today to SARAJIT DEB

ELIOT TELTSCHER is from Palos Verdes, southern California, USA, where he was born on March 15, 1959. He is a player of rich promise and has beaten the world's top exponent, John McEnroe, several times. In 1980 he was 10th on the ATP computer, winning two of the 27 tournaments in which he entered and finishing runners-up in five others. Placed 11 in the current ATP rankings, Teltscher's favourite shot is his backhand volley, which he uses with devastating effect. Though being basically an all-court player, Eliot lacks continuity—which was very much evident in the Classic Tennis Event held recently in Calcutta, where he lost both the matches, against John Alexander and Wojtek Fibak. Perhaps the people of Calcutta had the fortune of seeing this talented American playing at his best in only one set, the first against Fibak whom he pulverised 6-1. But after that, he seemed to lose interest and gave up easily, or perhaps he was overconfident and had to pay the penalty. He did not live up to his reputation and showed just glimpses of his famous backhand and made many unforced errors. But he is a player who is definitely capable of producing better form. On the first day of the event, Sportsworld *met Eliot Teltscher. Excerpts:*


NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

SPORTSWORLD: Would you tell us something about your earlier career?

ELIOT TELTSCHER: It was my parents who inspired me to the game of tennis right from the beginning. And it was practically at their bidding that I started playing when I was 10, in southern California and it was also there that I took part in my first-ever tournament two years later. I remember it very well because I lost the very first match 0-6, 0-6 to Jim Crearley. But later in the year (1971) I became the number one player of southern California at the same age.

SW: What about your first appearance in a major tournament?

ET: It depends on what you call major. My first appearance at the Wimbledon was in 1979, in the Davis Cup against Australia in 1980 and my first major triumph was in Auckland in New Zealand when I beat Onny Parun in the final in 1979.

SW: Do you justify the ATP rankings?

ET: I think it is the most fair means of ranking a player in the tennis world today. I am ranked 11 at present, I think it is more or less fair, because if I have any cause for dissatisfaction, all that I can say is that I should have been ranked 10, which is practically the same. I think it is a fair assessment of the players who are playing tennis at present.

SW: What do you think about John McEnroe?

ET: All that I can say about him is that he is the number one player at the moment. He won the Wimbledon and then followed it up with a victory in the US Open. How can a player do that if he's not the number one?

SW: What about clay surfaces? He has not been able to prove himself on clay courts, say, at the French Open.

ET: It is true that McEnroe is not the player he is when he plays on clay. I cannot pinpoint the reason for his failure in clay but he is the undisputable king of grass, like Bjorn Borg is on clay.

SW: You say that Borg is the best on clay. Can you name some junior players who are close challengers to Borg, especially on clay?

ET: Two names come to mind, that of Ivan Lendl and Jose Luis Clerc. Both are very good and should fight for the top spot in clay after Borg retires.

SW: You have just talked about the retirement of Borg. Do you think he is finished, or do you think he can still make a comeback?

ET: When I said that, I did not mean that Borg will retire. What I meant was that as long as Borg is around, he will be the best on clay, followed by these two young players. About Borg being finished or making a comeback, all that I can say is that he is young, by that I mean he is definitely not old, and it will entirely depend on him as to whether he wants to continue playing seriously or not.

SW: At present we see that the tennis players travel a lot, playing in a lot of tournaments. Do you think this takes a toll on them and their games get effected?

ET: Yes, we travel a lot and it does take a toll on the players. Take for example my case. Before coming here, I had been to Australia, Japan, Europe and finally Los Angeles. Not only does

the travelling take a toll on us, but it also effects our whole system. For example the time schedule, which upsets our sleeping and resting time which is so very necessary for us.

SW: Then why do you travel so much? Is it the lure of the money or the gaining of perfection?

ET: Both. If anyone says that he is not interested in the money that is involved, he will be telling a lie. At the same time, the more tournaments we play, we get to face more players and can always learn a bit from each. Another important thing is that we want to exhibit our talent We have been gifted with a certain amount of talent and it is not right just to keep it to yourself, you must show it to the others. And no one can say that the people do not enjoy watching us play In that respect, we provide entertainment to the others and at the same time earn money and better our game In addition to the tournaments, there are the exhibition matches, like the one taking place here. In these we can relax a bit and take it easy.

SW: You mean to say that you took it easy here and that is why the indifferent form?

ET: Definitely I did not try as hard as I would have dohe at a major tournament, but at the same time, we want to win because our prestige is at stake If I lose to a player who is ranked below me, it will not boost my morale, so we do try to win, but do not go all out. As for my indifferent form here, I think the main reason is the amount of travelling I had done for the past few days. I am really sorry that I was not able to give of my best at Calcutta.

SW: Coming to Calcutta. How do you find the playing surface, umpiring, balls etc?

ET: As far as this event was concerned, it was all right. There was trouble with the surface because it kept "opening up". As far as umpiring was concerned, there were a lot of errors which would not have been tolerated in an important tournament. But here, the players tended to take things lightly and did not mind the wrong calls. The balls *(Matchless)*, I think, were very good.

SW: Since we are dealing with surfaces, which do you favour?

ET: (With a laugh) Definitely not grass, which is my worst surface. Otherwise, the other surfaces are fine with me.

SW: Why not grass?

ET: I really cannot pinpoint the reason, but it could be that I started playing on cement. And for that reason I do not like playing at Wimbledon. And perhaps I have played my last Wimbledon. I have no intentions of taking part in that championship any more.

SW: You have beaten McEnroe and yet have lost to players who are way below in the ATP ranking. Is this because of your indifferent attitude or something else?

ET: When I play I do think about the consequences. If I win, it is fine and if I lose, I know it is not the end of the world.

SW: Do you study your opponents before an encounter?

ET: No, I don't wory about the other players, I try to play my natural game that's all.

SW: Who is your coach? Does he analyse your opponent for you?

ET: My coach is Lansdorp Robert and he has been coaching me right from the beginning. He also does not try to assess my opponents and perhaps because I am under him that I have also developed this attitude.

SW: Generally, how many hours do you devote to the game daily, by way of practice?

ET: Usually it is four hours a day. A lot depends on where I am, and accordingly I adjust myself. My practice depends on the players who are available.

SW: Besides tennis, do you play any other games?

ET: I like playing golf, which you can say is my hobby.

SW: One last question. How would you rank the top ranking players of the world?

ET: According to my ranking it goes like this: McEnroe, Borg, Connors, Lendl, Clerc, Vilas, Gene Mayer, Tanner and then myself.



NATIONAL SWIMMING

Anita supreme

ASHOK KAMATH

ANITA SOOD's reputation preceded her to Madras And in the 38th National Aquatics Championship, which concluded at the Anna Swimming Pool on November 17, the teenage sensation from Maharashtra left in her wake seven records shattered in a total of eight golds Some achievement this In a meet dominated by three teenagers—Anita and, to lesser extents, fellow Bombayite Persis Madan and Kerala's Wilson C Cherian—a total of 19 national records were sent into oblivion and Anita and 17 year old Cherian picked up the individual champions sashes

As for the team titles, the girls from Maharashtra tallied 166 points (with their nearest rivals Kerala way behind with 41 points) while in the men's section, three institutional teams finished on the top of the heap—the Police the Services and the Railways —in that order

The aqua queen (Anita) set the record breaking ball afloat on the opening day when she touched concrete in the 800 metres free style and the 200 m individual medley in record time Among her gold wins in the last national at Lucknow was the 800 m free style event where she clocked a record 10 min 25 8 sec This time she was timed at 10 25 4 after a fine 10 13 1 in the heats earlier Less than 45 minutes later, Anita lowered the 200 m individual medley record with 2 37 secs In the bargain, second placer Persis Madan also improved upon the erstwhile record If these two records were the talking point at the end of the first day's proceedings one youngster who pulled off an out of the ordinary performance was a 17 year old pre degree student from Palai, Kottayam Wilson Cherian taking part in the 200 m individual medley for men, put in the shade better known swimmers by winning in 2 29 3 with Bengal's Abhijit Ghosh a close second

It was in this event that the current national record holder, T J Jacob had the mortification of finishing fifth What made Cherian's win all the more impressive was that the individual medley was not particularly the forte of this back stroke specialist The sole record in the men's section which went overboard on the opening day was the one in the 1500 m free style which like the 200 m individual medley was a hotly contested event Policeman Mohinder Kumar took the honours, elbowing out teammate Dharmpal Tokas at 18 21 2 Both the Policemen, in the process eclipsed the previous best timing which stood in the name of Anil Gunju

Going from strength to strength Anita Sood cornered the headlines on the second day too—a feature she maintained throughout the four day meet She won three events and marginally "spoilt" her image by failing to set a record in one of them This was in the 100 m breast stroke where Anita just about managed to beat the current record holder Kiran Mala Devi by a head The Manipur girl clocked 1 25 5 in this event last year, while Anita took 5 seconds more to finish on top this year But in the other two wins she achieved Anita must have had additional satisfaction in improving upon her own record timings—the 200 m free style (timing 2 18 secs) and clipping off a substantial 14 seconds plus in the 400 m individual medley



Wilson Cherian—no opposition in back stroke

Persis Madan, the girl who finished

Anita Sood the golden girl





Kiran Mala—pipped by Anita in her favourite event



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Abhijit Ghosh—finished a close second to Cherianin the 200m individual medley



Jacob—unimpressive

second to Anita in the 400 m individual medley, went on to set her first record, in the 200 m stroke, with timings of 2 44 8

Wilson Cherian, the young lad who finished on top in the 200 m individual medley on the opening day, lived up to his reputation by swimming the 200 m back-stroke event in record time—2 25.7

Before the end of the second day's proceedings, S R Savoo of Services raised a cheer in the men's section by felling the 200 m free-style record

When new records were at a premium in the men's section, Thouba Singh of the Police shattered his previous best effort in the 200 m breaststroke, clocking 2.40 3 seconds Two years ago Thouba was timed at 2:42.5 in the same event.

Anita's record-breaking exploits in the pool were almost becoming monotonous but by far her best effort came on the third day when she became the first woman to break the five-minute barrier in the 400 metres free-style And what's more, Anita achieved sub-five minute timings twice in the event She stopped the watch at 4 58.9 in the heats and improved further in the final at 4·54 3 secs

Persis Madan had a cake walk (or is it a "cake swim"?) in the 200 m buttertly and one felt that if she had the fortune of being "pushed" that wee extra bit by one of her rivals, may be she would have returned with a better timing than 2.40 7 Nevertheless, this was Persis's second record-breaking performance and was an improvement on the existing best of 2:45 4 which she set last year

The Maharashtra quartet went on to annex the 4 × 100 m medley relay in record time of 5·03 9 Two Madhya Pradesh girls finished on top in the spring-board diving event, with Sarala Sarwate tallying 335 95 points, followed by Meena Patel with 321 75 points

On the morning of the fourth and last day of the meet, the team charts were reasonably clear Both the holders—the Police in the men's section and Maharashtra in the women's were way ahead of their nearest rival, Services and Kerala, respectively (In the end, the title holders tallied 113 points and 166 points, respectively to continue their reign for yet another year) But the main points of interest centred around individual performances For one, would Anita improve on her six golds she netted at the Lucknow-Nationals? At the end of the day, Anita was the proud winner of eight first places of which an incredible seven were new records The female Indian version of Mark Spitz, did someone say? Anita added the 100 m free-style (1 01 6) and butterfly (1 09 3) over the same distance to her overnight tally of five new records

Not to be swept away by that pretty tidal wave called Anita Sood, fellow Maharashtrian Persis Madan rewrote the record dossiers for the third time in this meet when she picked up the 100 m back stroke gold (in 1 15 6)

Back-stroke "specialist" Wilson Cherian was timed at 1 06 3 in the one lap he took part in, in the 4 × 100 medly but on the final day he won the 100 m back-stroke with a greater deal of comfort even while establishing a new mark (1 05 9) This brought his final tally to three first places which included two record setting efforts By winning the 200 m back-stroke on the second day, his final day performance brought him the back-stroke double, and the overall individual championship title Incidentally, this St Thomas College, Palai, student may be joining the Indian Railways soon

The water-polo title was taken by the Indian Railways, beating Maharashtra 7-5 in the final

JUNIOR NEHRU HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Ill-temper mars a good show



The Imphal boys attack

A HOCKEY team from Manipur is still as much a novelty as a cricket team from America. So, when the boys from Imphal's Khural Sajor Leikai high school figured in the final of the Junior Nehru hockey tournament in the capital on the Children's Day, it became national news. Unseeded in the preliminary group E, the Imphal lads had progressed to the final of what should be called the Schools Hockey Cup of India, stealing the show from such formidable teams as State subsidised school, Khunti (Bihar), B.A.V. Inter College Meerut, Sports College Lucknow, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jullundur Cantonment and Guru Hari Singh Mahavidyalaya, Jiwan Nagar, Sirsa (Haryana), all of whom were seeded direct into the tournament's second stage, comprising 16 teams who played on a league basis in four groups, the winner of each group reaching the knock-out semi-finals.

Fit, fast and spirited, the Manipuris had indeed taken the capital's hockey enthusiasts by storm, and it was heartening to see so many people turn up to watch them take on Sports School, Jullundur, in the final. Being underdogs, the Imphal boys drew the sympathy of the crowd. But they lost much of the goodwill in the end, not because they lost 1-2 to the superior Jullundur team, but because of the way they behaved after the final and their ill-advised boycott of the prize distribution ceremony.

The provocation for their ugly show of temper was an error by umpire Harmesh Sareen a few minutes before the end. By mistake he blew for off-side when an Imphal forward was racing to the attack. When the Imphal boys pointed out to the umpire his mistake, he ordered a bully. At that an enraged supporter charged into the ground threateningly. However, the game was duly completed, but the umpire was not forgiven. He was roughed up and later the angry Imphal boys refused to accept their prizes.

Thus it was a sorry end to a fine campaign. However, realising their mistake, the Imphal team manager and captain wrote unconditional apologies for all that had happened, and pleaded with the tournament committee to at least restore the "Best coach" award to their coach, Ngairangbam Motilal, a 23-year-old Manipur inside-left who passed out of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports only last year. The coach was in no way to blame for the team's behaviour, captain Runini Kumar pleaded in his neat schoolboyish hand writing. The manager wanted a lenient view to be taken as the consequences could be serious if the tournament committee decides to report against the team to the Manipur education authorities.



A tense moment during the final between Sajor Leikai High School and Sports School

This is how the two teams reached the final —Khurai Sajor Keikai school, Imphal (preliminary League) beat G. V. Raja Sports school, Trivandrum, 1-0, beat Delhi Public school, Delhi, 3-0; (Super League) drew with S. S School, Khunti (Bihar) 2-2, beat Jhunmur High school, Jhunmur (Orissa) 3-0, beat B.A.V. Inter College, Meerut, 2-0; (Semi-final) beat Sports school, Lucknow, 3-1.

Sports school, Jullundur (directly seeded into Super League) beat NCC, Uttar Pradesh 3-0, drew with Khalsa school, Calcutta, 0-0, drew with Union Academy, Delhi 1-1; (Semi-final) beat Guru Hari Singh Mahavidyalaya, Jeewan Nagar, Sirsa (Haryana) 6-2 (tie-breaker).

It was nothing unusual that disputes arose over the eligibility of certain players on grounds of age, in spite of all the certificates and documents the tournament committee insists that the teams should carry In a few cases, the committee this year even went to the extent of ordering medical test, but doctors were unable to determine the exact age of the boys in question.

A CORRESPONDENT, Delhi

Sportspeople

Has Hogg reached the end of the Road ?

RODNEY HOGG, the man who often caused disaster for those who had to face him on the pitch and protect their stumps against his firepower, is now on the verge of an untimely end to his cricket career. The thing that has forced this stormy Australian into such a sorry plight is a spinal disease which developed when he was a teenager Diagnosed by an orthopaedic surgeon as Scheurmann's Disease, it is a kind of long-term degeneration of the vertebrae.

The illness has already caused considerable damage to his Test career by restricting his participation in this year's Australian tour of England, and is now threatening to jeopardize his chances of taking part in the current Sheffield Shield season

In an attempt to overcome his affliction and strengthen his back, Hogg now swims and exercises regularly—but with little encouraging results, as was evident from the breakdown that he suffered during a minor club match in Adelaide a few days ago

Wavering between optimism and despair, Hogg said, "At my age, it would be pointless to persevere next season if my back doesn't improve after theexercise programme."

A top sports therapist of Adelaide, Rick Montiadis, said that Scheurmann's Disease was highlighted in sportsmen. In Hogg's case, this was particularly because of his bowling action

Like many other cricketers of the world, Hogg had to struggle hard to see himself established in first-class cricket But his entry into the Test scene can be likened only to one of those whirlwind deliveries that he often unleashes. He simply burst into the arena of Test cricket Blue-eyed, six-foot, with fair, curly hair, Hogg came close to achieving what only three bowlers (Barnes, Laker and Grimmett) have done so far, when in 1978/79 he took 41 wickets at an amazing average of 12 85 But, before that dramatic performance, Hogg played first-class cricket for only two seasons He also toured England for the Prudential Cup in 1979, and India later that year



We are always ready to learn

NO, he did not introduce football in the border State of Sikkim because prior to the merger with India, the Chogyal's Cup football was the most popular tournament But after the merger, the Chogyal's Cup was put in the cold storage and no effort was made to revive it Football fever, however, did not die and in 1974 an equally popular competition in the Chief Executive Cup for inter-departmental units was introduced But competition was confined to Sikkim, namely Gangtok The Sikkim Football Association had to do something—and fast. The State team made its debut at the Coimbatore National in 1978 where it made a dent in Indian football This was enough to boost the SFA and an idea was mooted to introduce an all-India tournament The brainchild of this was the association's president *Purna Kumar Pradhan*, who was backed unanimously by M K. Pradhan, N. K. Pradhan and Karma Yougel in the SFA ranks

The sole intention of introducing a tournament of this size was to give the football fraternity there the opportunity to witness the country's top stars so that they may adopt some of skills and techniques of the players "So I suggested to the then Governor of Sikkim Mr B B. Lal. to donate a gold cup Initially, the Governor was reluctant because of the cost of the cup but later agreed as the idea of an all-India competition was welcomed," said Mr P. K Pradhan. The present cost of the coveted cup is around Rs 1 5 lakhs.

"I won't say that the inaugural year in 1979 was all that great It involved local teams and the Bhutan XI That year, Gangtok Municipal Corporation wrested the trophy and the following year, Calcutta's Mohammedan Sporting Although the tournament was not recognised by the All India Football Federation, it did get its 'blessings' and after the recognition of the All India Governor's Gold Cup this year, some of the country's top teams converged on Gangtok Our tireless effort has paid rich dividends," the SFA president said "We have a plan to invite the best 8 to 10 teams every year to play in the round robin league. But at the moment, this is not financially viable Therefore, we have to continue the knockout system "

It was hoped that with the introduction of the gold cup—which has now come to stay—enthusiasm would be generated among the juniors But have the juniors taken heed? "We are proud to have produced players like Prem Dorji (Mafatlal) and Tarun Mukhia (Rajasthan Club). But at the moment, there is a gap and the ones who are sure of being in the State team seem most lethargic in training for the ensuing National at Trichur I am not satisfied with their present form, despite the fact that we are extending all facilities to them They will have to gear themselves up if they really want to take part at Trichur If they don't, well, goodbye to them," said Pradhan.

"It's strange, we have not been able to produce any new talent for the last eight years although the government is spending so much for football There is something wrong somewhere At the same time, I won't say that everything we do is correct But we are always willing to learn from our superiors and experienced brethren, because we want to survive in the football arena," concluded Mr Pradhan Surely, football lovers in Sikkim can do better Their present indifference could make the future of the gold cup bleak And the SFA cannot be blamed for that It is now or never



Purna Kumar Pradhan


For that
certain kind
of man
Godrej
New
Godrej
New Menthol Mist
LATHER SHAVING CREAM
New
Rich foam
Godrej Shaving Cream
Creamy cologney lather!

News round-up

Cycle Polo becomes popular

JAIPUR: Cycle polo enjoyed tremendous popularity among the troops during the days of the British Raj in India. The British Army Officers played the game as a substitute for polo in the fields. The game was popular in Rajputana and even enjoyed princely patronage. The game lost all its popularity and became almost a matter of the past for almost three decades until Mr M. R. Krishna revived it in the Seventies. The game has again found its acceptance among the teenagers with the introduction of sub junior section.

The fifth national junior and the first sub junior cycle polo championship was organised at Jaipur. Sixteen teams participated in the junior and sub-junior championship. The championship revealed that only Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab play the game in the style in which it should be played, while Rajasthan and Punjab, who dominated the championship, were vastly superior in technique. Other teams were far behind these two formidable outfits.

Both in the junior and sub junior levels, these two teams bombarded goals heavily on their rivals. As many as 23 goals were scored by these two teams over their rivals in just one match. They thrashed all the teams they met. Scoring a hat trick was no great news, for the tournament witnessed as many as a dozen hat tricks. In some matches a player scored as many as eight goals in a row. Rajendra Singh, Ashok Das, Sunil Rana (all from Rajasthan), Charanjeet Singh and Vijay Singh (both Punjab), P. Nazeer (Kerala) and Md. Asif (Andhra) scored plenty of goals.

In the junior section the contest was limited to Andhra Pradesh -- the holders—Rajasthan and the runners-up Punjab. But, both Punjab and Rajasthan scored without least opposition against Andhra and entered the final once again. Last time, at Patiala, the final provided a rich fare but the host Rajasthan found Punjab an easy prey at the famous Rambagh Polo Ground and routed them 15-2. Rajasthan had a good defence and an agile and goal-hungry forward line. Punjab hardly offered any resistance. It was a disastrous performance by the Punjab boys who ruined the final. Rajasthan prevailed all through the four chukkers. Rajendra Singh, Sunil Rana and Ashok Das displayed good understanding among themselves to wreck the Punjab defence. The attacks made by the Rajasthan boys demoralised Punjab and it was nothing less than an abject surrender. Rajendra Singh, Ashok Das and Arift Khan scored four goals each and Sunil Rana struck thrice.

Punjab, however, proved to be a better side in the sub junior section and they deservedly lifted the Federation Cup. Punjab completely dominated the game and, by the first chukker, was leading 6-1. Rajasthan tried to offer resistance from the second chukker and brought the score to 3-8. The third chukker resulted in keen competition but Punjab remained supreme and the sturdier Punjab won the final 11-3. Paramjit Singh, who alone struck five goals, is a talented player. Sukhdeep also showed great promise. For Rajasthan Ravi Pratap, Bindusar Singh and Amitabh did well.

The Organising Committee of the Asiad, who decided to include Cycle Polo as a demonstration game, dropped it in the last minute in favour of a Malaysian game. According to Mr Yashwant Singh Alwar, President of Cycle Polo Federation of India, the decision of the Organising Committee came as a great blow. It was the best opportunity to demonstrate this sport among the Asian nations. However, the Secretary of the C.P.F.I., Mr Raghuvendra Singh Dunlod, expects that it will be included as a cultural event for the Asiad. Cycle Polo is an interesting sport and has the potential to become a mass game.

PRAKASH BHANDARI



Sue Barker, Britain's No. 1 woman tennis star, celebrates victory after defeating Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia by 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 to win the Daihatsu Challenge trophy at Brighton, south east England.

Barker who has recently suffered a back injury and illness, lost the first set after being upset by a changed line call. She recovered magnificently to win the second and third sets comfortably.

Gandhinagar gets swimming pool

AHMEDABAD: At long last Gujarat has acquired in its capital, Gandhinagar, 30 km from Ahmedabad, what can be described without exaggeration as a swimmer's dream—an Olympic-sized swimming pool, built at the cost of Rs. 35 lakhs. The pool, constructed as a part of a sports complex run by the State Institute of Sports, is divided into two segments, one each for racing and diving events. The racing segment is 50 metres by 21 metres with a minimum depth of 1.10 metres and maximum of 2.10 metres.

There are eight lanes, each being as wide as 2.5 metres. The well lighted pool has three spots for judges to watch the competitions. Galleries around it accommodate 2,000 spectators. The second segment is exclusively for diving, with a depth of five metres. The 20 metres by 21 metres diving pool has four diving boards. Some of these are fitted with spring facilities.

The swimming complex got off to a fitting start on November 5 when the Chief Minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki inaugurated it. The inauguration coincided with the beginning of the 27th All India School Aquatics championship. The Sports Minister, Mr. Manoharsinhji Jadeja, expects the new swimming complex to attract many national events and coaching camps in future. An invitation has already been extended for holding coaching camps in swimming events for the forthcoming Asian Games.

JOY BARBHAIT

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Only five batsmen in this select band

Only five batsmen have reached an average of 60 over a whole career of first-class cricket

This select band is headed by Sir Donald Bradman—a long way out in front with an average of 95 14 from the 28,067 runs he accumulated

In his biography *Sir Donald Bradman*, Irving Rosenwater indulges in the fanciful exercise—"purely as an arithmetical curiosity", as he puts it—of depriving Sir Donald's average of the benefit of all the not-outs in his career (43) to show that his first-class average would still be 83 03—far ahead of all other batsmen retaining the benefit of their not-out innings

Next highest average to Bradman's is that of the great Indian batsman Vijay Merchant, whose 12,876 runs were made at an average of 72 74 Third on the list is a West Indian with an average of 69.86 No, it's not Sir Garfield Sobers Sir Garfield's aggregate, 28,315, is 248 higher than Sir Donald's but he had 609 innings compared with Sir Donald's 338 and his average is 40 27 lower at 54 87

QUESTION 1 Who is the West Indian with an average of 69.86?

The other two batsmen with career averages in the sixties are Australians with remarkably similar aggregates and averages.

Sir Garfield Sobers





Sir Donald Bradman

QUESTION 2 Can you name them?

Among famous English batsmen who fail to qualify for inclusion in the list of players who have averaged 60 or more over their career are such "greats" as Jack Hobbs, 50 65, Patsy Hendren, 50 8, Herbert Sutcliffe, 52, Wilfred Rhodes, 30 83, Sir Leonard Hutton, 55 51, Colin Cowdrey, 42 89, C B Fry 50 22, Frank Woolley, 40 75, Phil Mead, 47 67, and W G Grace, 39 55 Also included in the list are Denis Compton, Wally Hammond and Peter May

QUESTION 3 Can you place these three in the order of their averages?

Irving Rosenwater illustrates what he describes as Bradman's "unparalleled consistency" in another of the fascinating tables that decorate his biography of the Don—a table of those who have made centuries most frequently

Heading the list, Bradman in 338 innings scored 117 centuries, giving him a century frequency of 34 61 per cent.

West Indian George Headley lies second to Bradman—with a century frequency figure of 20 12 per cent, derived from 33 centuries in 164 innings

The Victorians Woodfull and Ponsford are well up the list, with the identical century frequency figure of exactly 20 per cent

QUESTION 4 In what order would you place the following batsmen who next appear on Irving Rosenwater's list:- Lindsay Hassett, Arthur Morris, Clyde Walcott, Wally Hammond, C.L. Badcock, Vijay Merchant and Alan Kippax?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 C W L (Charlie) Parker The only player who has taken more than his six hat tricks is Kent's Doug Wright, who performed the feat seven times Only bowlers to take more than his 3,278 wickets (av 19 47) are Wilfred Rhodes (4,187 av 16 71) and A P ("Tich") Freeman (3,776, av 18 42)

2 Billy Bates, who played in 15 Tests all against Australia His hat-trick victims were two future Australian captains, Percy McDonnell and George Giffen, and the mighty hitter George Bonnor

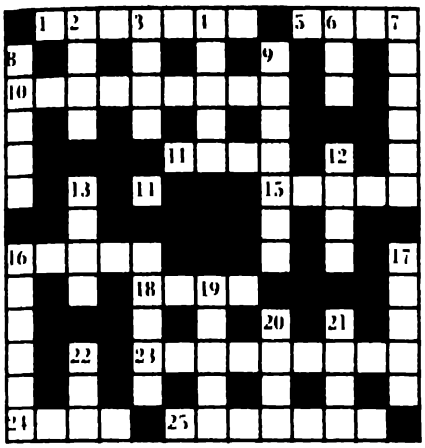
3 Googly left-hander Lindsay Kline, at Cape Town in the second Test of the 1957 58 South Africa Australia series when he dismissed the last three batsmen in the Springboks' second innings

4 Off-spinner Pat Pocock With three overs to go Sussex were 187 for one needing 18 to win, yet finished three short at 202 for nine In the first of those overs, Pocock, beginning with figures of 0 63, dismissed batsmen with his first, third and sixth balls After Jackman conceded 11 runs in the next over, Pocock began the last with a hat trick, took another wicket with his fifth ball and the ninth wicket fell to the last ball, a run out So five wickets fell in one over—a first class record - and Pocock had set world records with his six wickets in nine balls and seven wickets in 11 balls Additionally, he had become only the third Surrey bowler to take four wickets in four balls

Crossword

Jones & O Brien

124



ACROSS

1 Impudent sounding golf club (7)
5 What the sculler needed from Rosa (4)
10 Jim Thorpe took this city by storm (9)
11 Club strike? (4)
15 Ice figure-skater brought her sport into the limelight after acting in the movie 'One in a Million' (5)
16 Sounds like the main ingredient of baseball (5)
18 He gave us 'Boxiana' (4)
23 Only man to hold three world professional boxing championships at once said 'The Eagle has Landed' (9)
24 Tea-drinkers trophies (4)
25 Not a shallow Indian racehorse who was heir to the throne (7)

DOWN

2 Cricketer nicknamed 'Bobjee' (3,1)
3 Sounds like this hockey-playing community is unwell (4)
4 Isao the Japanese judoka does not make it (5)
6 Pistol shooting in light wind (3)
7 Cricketing paralysis? (6)
8 Hockey player who is burnt to the ground in the beginning (5)
9 Mothers adapt themselves to counteract spin (7)
12 John made batsmen freeze? (4)
13 Does this rolling driver gather none? (4)
14 Where weapons are made for a famous football team (7)
16 Bold start for this Indian cricketer (5,1)
17 Solve a Logarithm in the midst of hitting wildly (5)
19 Spinners always have a hand in this (5)
20 Nail down Equine tracts of land for cultivation (4)
21 Cavity at the course (4)
22 Initially Phadkar (1,1,1)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

Identify the following

1 Verrou
2 In-fighting
3 Prisoners' Base
4 Epsom
5 Bentley

6 Rounders
7 'Toril'
8 Fastnet Race
9 Devil-take-the-hindmost
10 Grand National Steeplechase

ANSWERS

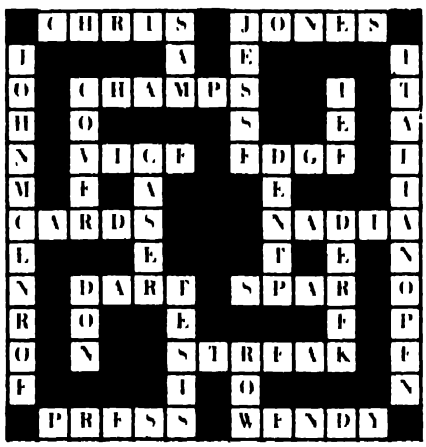
1 A kind of formation in football
2 Close quarter boxing
3 A street game practised in mediaeval France
4 Famous race course in Surrey
5 A variety of racing car named after Walter Bentley, the man who designed it
6 An outdoor bat-and-ball game played between two teams of nine players
7 The pen from which the bull enters the plaza (in bullfighting)
8 An offshore yacht race sailed from Cowes to the Fastnet Rock and back to Plymouth
9 An elimination cycle race in which the last man across the finishing line drops out until only two are left to contest the final sprint
10 A famous horse race run at Aintree (near Liverpool)

Question box

[illegible]

O S. Reddy, Andhra Pradesh.
Q. How many Indians have made centuries in both the innings of a Test?
A. Only two Vijay Hazare made 116 and 145 against Australia in 1947-48 and Sunil Gavaskar hit centuries in both the innings of a Test on three different occasions

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 123



M. S. V. S. N. Raju, Ganjam.
Q. Who won the first Ranji Trophy Championship against whom?
A. Bombay against Northern *India at* Bombay in 1934-35

Sudhamay Banerjee, Rishra.
Q. What is the highest 3rd and 7th wicket partnership in a Test match? Who were they and against whom they had scored?
A Third wicket 370 by W J. Edrich and D C S Compton of England against South Africa at Lord's in 1947, 7th wicket: 347 by Dermi Atkinson and C C Depeiza of West Indies against Australia at Bridgetown in 1954-55

R Janardhan, Coimbatore.
Q What is Durrani's Test record?
A. 29 Tests, 50 innings, twice n o , 1202 runs, 104 as the highest score with the average of 25 04 and 75 wickets captured at the rate of 35 42 runs apiece

C. K. Suresh, Tikkoti
Q What is the highest score made by G A Gooch?
A. 153 against West Indies at Kingston in 1980-81

S. Subramanyam, Madras.
Q. What is the highest score of a batsman carrying a bat through a completed innings?
A. 202 n o by W A Brown of Australia in the second Test vs England at Lord's in 1938
Q. What is the highest score of a batsman playing his first Test?
A 287 by R E Foster of England in the first Test vs Australia at Sydney in 1903-04

C.Sudhir and C.Suhas, Bangalore
Q. What is the highest individual score in a first-class match?
A. 499 by Hanif Mohammad of Pakistan who made it for Karachi vs Bhawalpur in Qaid-i-Azam Tourney of Pakistan at Karachi in 1958-59

Gundu Bose, Gauhati.
Q. Who is the first Indian to score a century against the West Indies?
A. H R Adhikari, who made an unbeaten 114 in the first Test at Bombay in 1948-49

Biswajit Acharya, Cooch Behar
Q. When, where and against whom Sarfraz Nawaz of Pakistan made his Test debut?
A. 3rd Test against England at Karachi in 1968-69

Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Tiruchirapalli
Q. Which country is holding the record for the highest and lowest totals in Tests?
A. Highest total of 903 for 7 wickets decl is reached by England against Australia at The Oval in 1938 and lowest of 26 is made by New Zealand against England at Auckland in 1954-55

Nilendu Chakraborty, Calcutta.
Q What are the Test records of Geoff Howarth and Richard Hadlee of New Zealand?
A Geoff Howarth has made 1,606 runs in 46 innings (4 times unbeaten) of 25 Tests with 147 as his highest score in 6 centuries Richard Hadlee has scored 1,217 runs and captured 155 wickets in 35 Tests for New Zealand

Alikhya Chakraborty, Gauhati.
Q. *Who has taken maximum wickets in Tests?*
A. *Lance Gibbs, of West Indies took 309 wickets in 79 Tests*

Sunil K.Singh, V.B.Singh, Allahabad.
Q. How many bowlers have taken 10 or more wickets in a Test against India?
A. 6 bowlers from England, 6 from Australia, 2 from West Indies, one from New Zealand and 3 from Pakistan have dismissed 10 or more batsmen in a match against India

R. K. Chatterjee, Hooghly.
Q. Who was the single-handed famous Test umpire from England, whose right-arm was amputed?
A. *Late Frank Chester*

Rajendra M. Joshi, Jamshedpur.
Q. What is the Test bowling record of Clarrie Grimmett and what is his highest score?
A. In 37 Tests, Grimmett bowled 14513 balls, conceded 5231 runs to capture 216 wickets at the average of 24 21 As a batsman his hightest score was 50

Ravi, Umesh, Bangalore.
Q. What is the complete Test record of Colin Cowdrey?
A. 114 Tests, 188 innings, 15 n o , 7624 runs, 182 highest score, 44 06 average, 22 centuries, 38 half centuries, and 120 catches

Latu Mukherjee, Belurmath.
Q. How many batsmen have scored three or more double centuries, except Sunil Gavaskar?
A. L Hutton (3), W R Hammond (6) of England, D G Bradman (10), G S Chappell (3) of Australia, and Zaheer Abbas (3) of Pakistan have hit three or more double centuries like Sunil Gavaskar of India

A.V.Raman, Visakhapatnam; N.C.Dave, Baroda.
Q. Please give me the full forms of "SP", "SS", "DF" and "GM" bats.
A. SP St Peters, SS Stuart Surridge, DF Duncan Fearnly, GM Gunn & Moore.

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

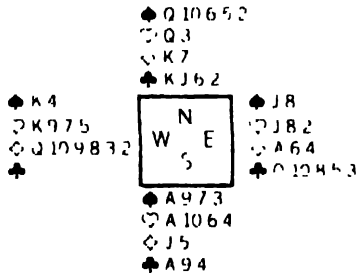
One of the most tiresome decisions that can confront a player occurs when a defender makes the opening lead out of turn Now declarer has a number of options open to him - he can forbid a lead in the suit that the defenders have tried, he can accept the lead (from the wrong player) with dummy coming down on the table before declarer himself plays to the first trick, and so on The trouble is that he never has a chance of looking at the dummy before he makes a decision
This was an amusing deal from an early round of this year's Crockford's Cup - the English Bridge Union's teams championship First, just declarer s hand

♠ A 9 7 3
♡ A 10 6 4
♢ J 5
♣ A 9 4

South opened 1NT (12 14) and North bid two hearts (a transfer) South dutifully replied two spades and North tried for game with three clubs With a near maximum, tops and four trumps South had no hesitation in accepting the invitation, and bid four spades As can happen after a transfer sequence, East absentmindedly led a small diamond Decisions, decisions! Eventually South decided to bar a diamond lead and West led ♣ 7, for dummy to produce

♠ Q 10 6 5 2
♡ Q 3
♢ K 7
♣ K J 6 2

South's first reaction was one of annoyance the diamond lead from East would have been helpful However, second thoughts suggested that it didn't matter East would hardly underlead an Ace on this bidding, so ♢ A was marked with West The club lead ran to the ten and Ace and declarer played trumps in a simple way Ace and another West won the second round with the King while East followed with the Jack and now after some thought, West produced ♡ K!
What was going on? In a puzzled fashion South won led a club (on which West showed out) to the King and a club to the nine East took his Queen but now there were ten tricks The only logical explanation for West's ♡ K? His partner *had* attempted to underlead ♢ A West knew from the early play that South held ♢ A ♣ A and ♠ A Therefore East held ♡ A It was about the only defence to give declarer ten tricks, for this was the full deal



Last week's quiz: after the bidding (unopposed) had started South, one heart North one spade South, three clubs, I posed the question as to whether a bid of four-hearts would be more encouraging than one of three hearts There are several schools of thought about this One theory which makes sense to me, is that four-hearts shows good cards in *both* of partner's suits Three hearts, by contrast, can either be distinctly weak or the start of a slam investigation—remember, the partnership are committed to game

This week's quiz: suppose that you open 1NT and your left hand opponent joins in with a bid of two-diamonds (Astro) showing spades and another suit How would you interpret a double from your partner?

Chess

Peter Clarke

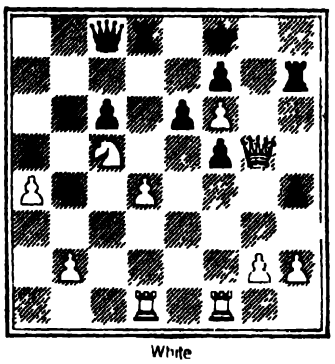
If computers are still several hundred years behind the best men when it comes to playing chess they are catching up fast and threatening to stride far ahead in some of the technical aspects of producing books on the game Concrete proof of this has just emerged from the Anglo-American publishing company of Imprint Capablanca, whose ambitiously announced 'ultimate' series of chess books has got going with three titles, *The Sicilian Defence* (£9 95), *The King's Indian* (£7 95) and *The English Opening* (£7 95), all in hardback Each is described as a quantitative analysis of the opening, obtained from a programme conceived by David Levy Kevin O'Connell and David Watt What the computer has been instructed to do is build up a database from the thousands of games played in international tournaments in 1980 and then sort out the material according to specific guidelines Briefly, these have been designed to bring about the following arrangement of facts each major variation has a new chapter, each chapter is arranged in sub variations, headed by a diagram and a list of known moves at that point, the percentage popularity of these moves is given, followed by their success rate in terms of wins, draws and losses, finally, the diverging lines become complete games, concluding with the result and the names of the players, the tournament and its location At the front of the books there are tables of the main variations and at the end a comprehensive index of players This is all very impressive, and it could well be that the publishers have hit on a winner, for they have delegated the drudgery of research to the machine and left the reader with plenty to think about- the games do not, you see have any commentaries or notes Here is a tough positional struggle taken from the third book of the series

White **Bent Larsen** Black **Walter Browne** English Opening 'London 1980'

1 P – QB4, P – QB4, 2 Kt – KB3, Kt – KB3, 3 Kt – B3, P – K3, 4 P - KKt3, P – QKt3, 5 B - Kt2, B - Kt2, 6 O O, B – K2, 7 P – Q4, PxP, 8 QxP, P – Q3, 9 R – Q1, P – QR3, 10 P – Kt3, QKt - Q2, 11 B – Kt2, O - O, 12 P - K4, R – K1, 13 P – KR3, R – QB1, 14 Q – K3, Q – B2, 15 Kt – K1, Q - Kt1, 16 Kt – Q3, Q – R1, 17 R – K1, B - B3, 18 Q – K2, Kt – B4, 19 KtxKt, QPxKt, 20 QR – Q1, P – QKt4, 21 P – B4, PxP, 22 QxP, Kt – Q2, 23 Q – K2, P – B5, 24 PxP, Kt – Kt3, 25 R – QB1, B – Kt5, 26 KR Q1, P - B4, 27 B – QR1, B – Kt2, 28 R – Kt1, B – B4ch, 29 K – R1, B - B3,30 R – Q2, Q – R2, 31 P – QR4, KtxRF, 32 KtxKt, BxKt, 33 PxP, R – Kt1, 34 RxR, QxR, 35 R – Kt2, Q – Q3, 36 R – Kt7, PxP, 37 B – K5, RxB, 38 PxR, Q – Q5, 39 R – Kt8ch, K – B2, 40 Q – R5ch, K – K2, 41 Q - Kt5ch, Resigns

Competition 0494 Solution next week

Black



White

Solution to 0493 (Korchnoi-Peterson, Kiev, 1984) (r2r1n2/pp2bk2/2p1p2p/3q4/3PN1QP/2P3R1/P4PP1/5-RK1—White to play) It is mate in four 31 Q Kt7ch, K K1 QxBch and Black resigned in view of 32 KxQ 33 R Kt7ch K K1 34 Kt B6 mate

Problem No 1159 Solution next week

A Kraemer (*Schweizerische Schachzeitung* 1919) **(3Q4/4N3/4P1pr/5pPr/3Rbk1p/7P/4R2K/4N3 – 9 white men, 7 black)**

White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1158 (Mari) (3r1r2/4P2R/Q2n1k2/4qB1P/3N1R2/3KpN2/8/8? – mate in two) 1 Kt Bf (threat 2 BxQ) (a) 1 QxB 2 Q(x)Q (b) 1 Kt K5ch 2 B Q7 (c) 1 KtxBch, 2 KtxR

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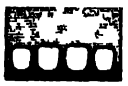
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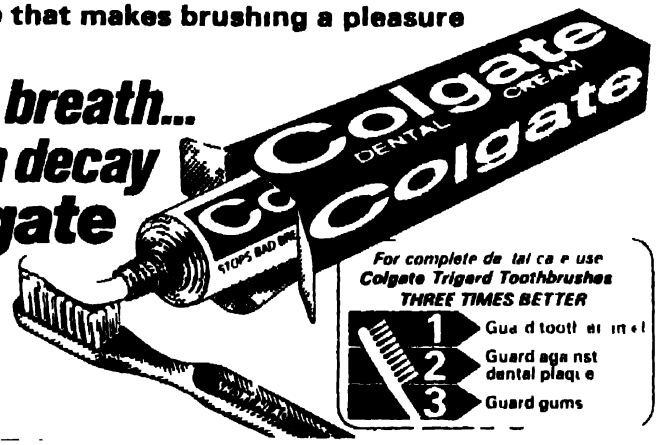
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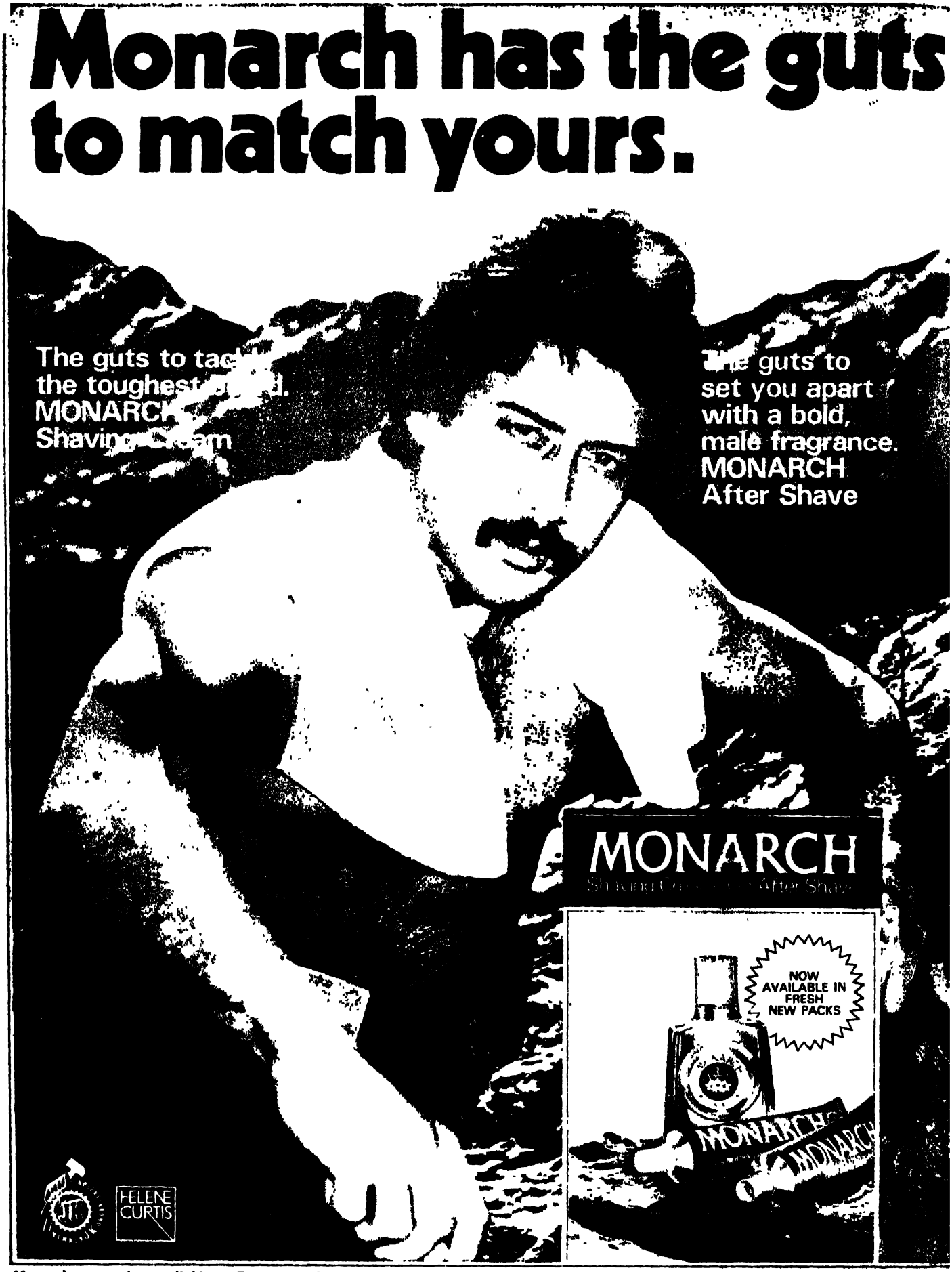
England Draw First Blood

Report on one-day International

Plus: First round in Australia

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PLUS Interviews with Chetan Chauhan and Madan Lal

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India registered a convincing victory over Pakistan in the second hockey Test match recently played in Calcutta The ex-Pakistan captain, KHALID MAHMOOD, and GURBUX SINGH report on the match



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Letters to the Editor

Shocking indeed

CHAUHAN's omission from the Indian cricket team for the first Test at Bombay is shocking Some may argue that the man taking his place is quite talented, but Srikkanth is still an inexperienced batsman. Chauhan, who served Indian cricket with distinction and rose well to the needs of many a critical situation, surely did not deserve this treatment He provided the much-needed stability to the Indian team Even in the last series against Australia and New Zealand, he showed his worth and, in fact, he stood next only to Sandip Patil in that batting averages

While Chauhan's exclusion from the Test team is shocking, no less surprising is the omission of Brijesh Patel from the team for the one-day internationals and the South Zone team Even the talented medium pacer Sunil Valson, who moved over from Delhi to Tamil Nadu this season, has been overlooked for the South Zone team A dashing stroke-player like Patel would be an asset for any team taking part in limited-over matches and if we take into consideration his experience, present form and fielding ability, I am sure, the selectors are going to repent for this error. I feel, Chauhan and Patel will be brought back into the team the moment the selectors realise their mistake.

JAYANAND SHETTY,
Bangalore

CHETAN CHAUHAN's omission from the first Test is indeed a great shock to many cricket-lovers of India This has once again indicated the short-sightedness of our selectors If anyone of the Indian team was to be axed, the obvious choice should have fallen on Vishwanath and not on Chauhan

SEKHAR BERA and TARUN SAHU,
Kendrapara

THE omission of Chetan Chauhan from the Test team is wholly unjustified. It would have been much better if the selectors had dropped Vishwanath and taken Srikkanth in his place Vishwanath has been showing poor form for the last two series and has been able to score only one century in these series. Chauhan batted fairly consistently in Australia and New Zealand early this year on quite a number of occasions. So, it has been a great injustice to him.

H ANAND,
Calcutta.

I SINCERELY protest against the exclusion of Chauhan from the Indian Test team At the same time, my heartiest felicitation goes to the new cap, K. Srikkanth Ghavri's exclusion may not be protested so much as in the case of Chetan Chauhan The best players in the world have praised Chauhan for his tenacity during tense situations The risk of taking new caps may be done at the later stage of the series.

ATIN MAITY,
Calcutta

Shameful

WHAT a shameful incident the Lillee affair has been! If such things continue to occur the standard of Test cricket will decline. Lillee has to be blamed for the happening at Perth. He did it only because he was unable to take any wicket in the second innings and was in a hurry to break the record of Lance Gibbs.

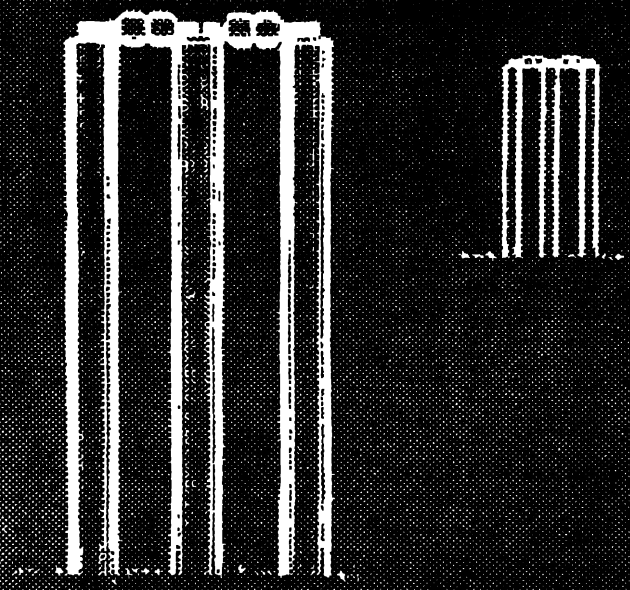
ZAYA ARFI,
Patna.

A flop

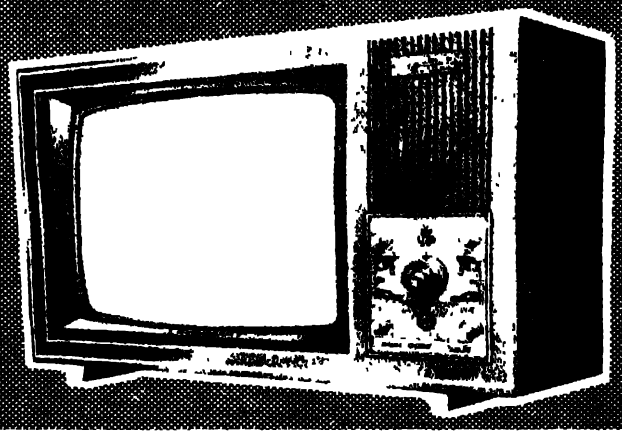
THE Pune Master's tournament was, in all senses, a big flop, except, of course, that Prakash won the title From the initial stages the participation of the players was very much in doubt Not all the best Chinese players came, nor did the Indonesians. Lastly, to add fuel to the fire, Len Koppen and Martin Frost cried off in the last moment, thus depriving the tournament of its glamour

SHISHIR BHATTACHARYA,
Jabalpur.

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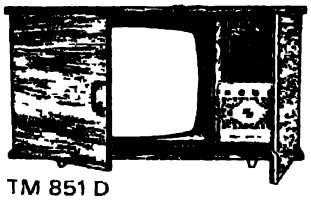
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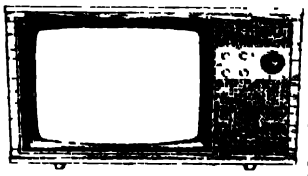
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ALL IN THE GAME

In The Offing

Race of the champions

Remember Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett, the famous athletes, who break records by the dozen, especially those created by the other? A 1500-metre showdown between these two giants of middle-distance running of the present era is being planned by the Spaniards



next year Coe, it seems, has agreed to run the race. The event is the idea of Raimundo Saporta, the chairman of the World Cup organising committee. But guess what is the biggest problem? Finding a large-enough stadium

Broken Rib

Fitness test

The most prolific scorer in the last English County season, Zaheer Abbas, of Pakistan, is at present in a dilemma He has gone to Australia, under the captaincy of Javed Miandad to play in the triangular series against Australia and West Indies. But after he landed on the shores of the continent, Zaheer found himself in the news again. For him, it was something which he could do without—an injury in the rib. He has had a fitness test, to see whether he has recovered from a broken rib. At the time of going to Press, the result was not known. If Zaheer fails the test, one of the two young left-handers, Mohsin Khan or Haroon Rashid, will be flown from Pakistan immediately to join the tourists. Pakistan felt the absence of Zaheer in the first Test against Australia which they lost and they are hoping that he will be fit before the second Test. Well, best of luck.

Disappointed

All over again

Apart from the discarded Dave Watson, no one was more disheartened at not being selected for the senior team, than Gary Owen, 25, the industrious midfield player from West Bromwich, who is yet to win his first senior cap. Owen captained the England under-21 side which defeated Hungary 2-0 a few days back as an over-age player and was outstanding It was his 20th appearance in the under-21 side and he has also played in nine "B" internationals "It is disappointing because I know I am playing the best football of my career," said Owen "I've captained teams that included Graham Rix, Glenn Hoddle, Terry Butcher and Russell Osman and have played with Tony Woodcock, Peter Barnes and Bryan Robson All of them have won senior caps. I suppose it's because they have been with clubs in the public eye West Bromwich command attention for all the wrong reasons and my international career is at a standstill. My contract ends this season and, if I am to get the England cap I want so much, it looks as if I'll have to move to a bigger club. It's certainly odd that I am no further forward than I was when I was 20." Dave Sexton, the England under-21 manager, said: "Gary was magnificent against Hungary and he had so much of the ball that it was almost embarrasing." But still the senior cap keeps eluding Gary Owen.

In The News

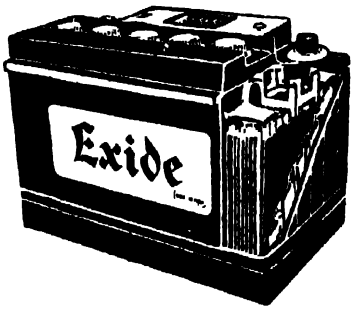
Again

John McEnroe has made it a habit of keeping himself in the news Recently, during the Benson and Hedges final against Jimmy Connors, the temperamental Wimbledon and the US Open winner was fined £ 325 for his behaviour during the match He faced a 21-day suspension from world tennis. But his suspension became meaningless when it was announced by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council in New York that it can start from the day the incident took place McEnroe did not have any engagements in those three weeks apart from lucrative exhibition matches in which he will be allowed to play. Also, in the Davis Cup final against Argentina which will start in the second week of December.

The decision revealed the incompetence of international law tennis discipline In the meantime, McEnroe continued playing in exhibition matches and adding to his annual millionaire earnings The ban was expected to begin later to allow the customary 10 days for appeal But just because McEnroe announced that he would not be making an appeal, the whole thing was brought forward David Gary, the secretary of the International Tennis Federation gave a humble explanation "McEnroe has timed it just right Had the Wembley incident been a week later, his 21-day ban would definitely have included the Davis Cup " Jimmy Connors who won the match in which both players were fined gave another explanation "Fines mean nothing to guys like us Suspension means nothing either We can make more money through being suspended "



McEnroe—did not lose anything



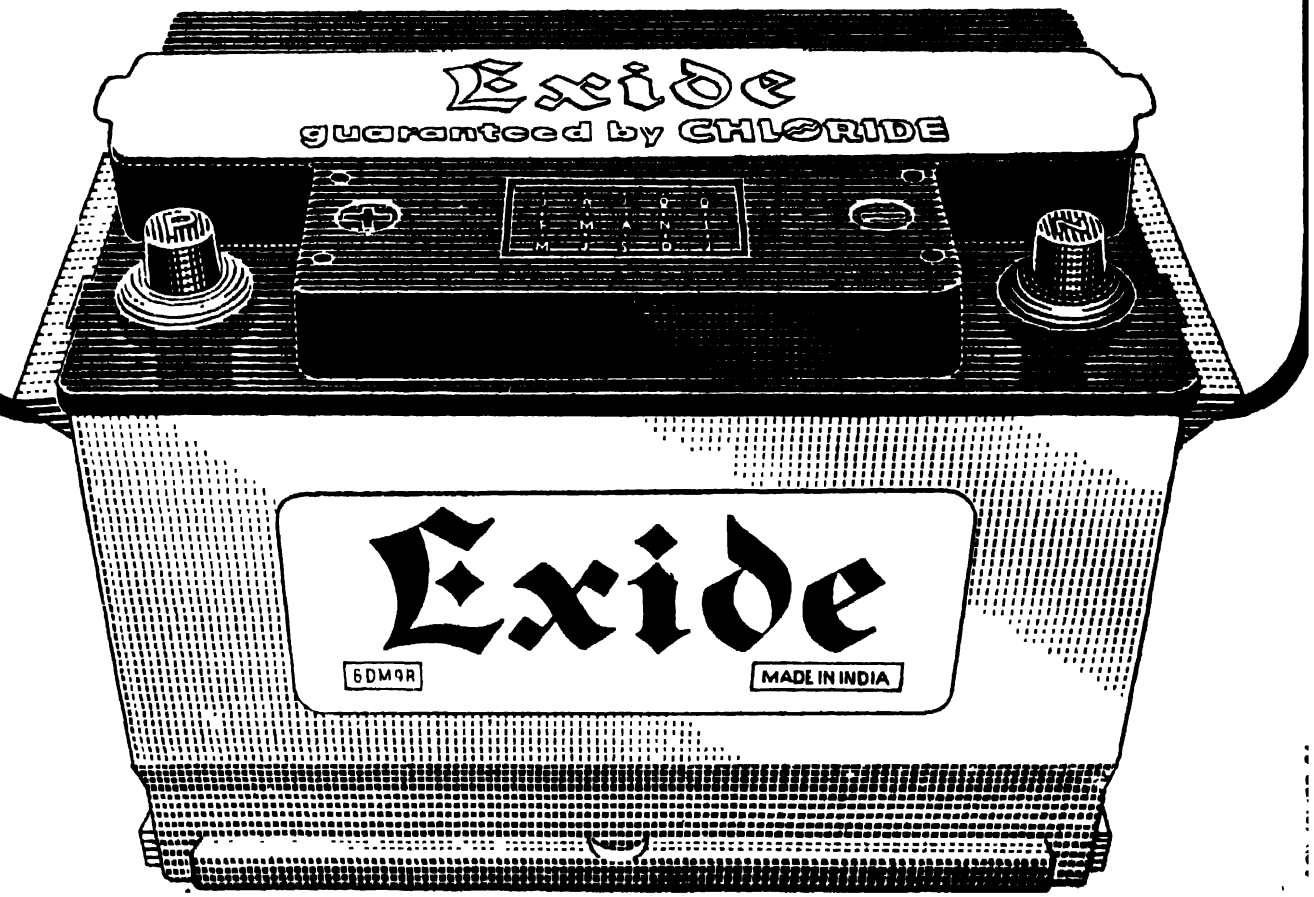
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My most memorable moments

SYED KHAJA AZIZUDDIN

BORN on July 12, 1930, Sayed Khaja Azizuddin (popularly known as Aziz) holds an enviable record of representing India 22 times in various international matches and tournaments in India and abroad. He developed an absorbing interest in football at an early age of 12 and started representing regularly his schools (Middle School and Gosha Mahal High School) and also National Sports Club (a private club) of Hyderabad. Gradually Aziz's name and fame disseminated all over India, and in 1949 he got the first opportunity to play for Andhra Pradesh in the Santosh Trophy. The same year he was also called up to represent India for the first time in some exhibition matches in Kabul

A versatile player with the ability to play at any position in the defence, Aziz dominated the realm of Indian football throughout the Fifties and the early sixties until he retired in 1964 from first class football. In his eventful career he played for India in two Olympics (in Helsinki in 1952 and in Melbourne in 1956), three Asian Games (in Delhi in 1951, in Manila in 1954 and in Tokyo in 1958) and four Quadrangular Trophies (in Sri Lanka in 1952, in Burma in 1953, in India in 1954 and in Pakistan in 1955). Besides, he toured the far eastern countries with the Indian team in 1951, 1954 and 1957. On various occasions he also represented India in Burma, Singapore, Pakistan, Malaysia and the Soviet Union Moreover, he captained the Indian team in all the international matches played in India and abroad in 1955, 1957, 1958 and 1959.

Besides being a footballer of great repute, Aziz completed NIS coaching in 1962 and has been a full-fledged coach since then. He was selected in the FIFA panel of referees in 1976-77 He was also one of the national selectors for a few years. A strong personality with a childlike simplicity, S. K. Aziz is currently a deputy superintendent of police. He is shy, polite and definitely a source of inspiration for the young players of today.

MY entire football career, spanning a decade and a half, was so eventful and thrilling that it is really difficult for me to single out any particular moment as the most memorable one in the list. I still vividly remember my close association with the late S. A. Rahim, the former Indian coach, under whose able guidance and supervision Indian football team won the gold medal in the 1962 Asian Games at Djakarta. In fact, he was intimately connected with our family and often used to write to my father about me. But, strangely enough, he did never tell me anything about my performance even when I played well.



The year 1949 can be considered a landmark one in my career because that was the year when I first got the chance to represent my State in the Santosh Trophy. At first, I was not included in the final team and found myself in the list of extras. But it so happened that while we were going to Calcutta by train for playing in the Santosh Trophy there, a regular full-back of our team became injured. And this afforded me an opportunity to come into the final eleven. Since then I never looked back and was always in the team. So the year 1949 was a turning point in my career.

One of my most memorable moments came when India won the gold medal in the first Asian Games at Delhi in 1951. As a member of the team I am proud of our achievement. In the final we beat Iran by a solitary goal scored by Mewala. I also represented India in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne. India put up a fine display and occupied the fourth place I was naturally happy that we were able to fulfil what Rahim had expected of us. Rahim's strategy for our matches in the Olympics was also highly acclaimed by the eminent football critics of different countries.

I still remember some other matches in which I put up fine performances. Andhra Pradesh reached the Santosh Trophy final in 1950 by defeating Bombay 3-2 in the semi-final. In the second half of that match we scored three goals, and I myself saved my team on two occasions by frustrating the opponents' attacks on our citadel. Then, I played brilliantly for the Hyderabad Police team, possibly in the late Forties, against WIMCO Sports Club of Madras in an All-India tournament and saved an almost sure goal against us. It was a tense situation when I found myself alone between our goalkeeper and the onrushing Thangaraj. But I did not lose nerve and headed the Thangaraj shot. Finally, I was overwhelmed with joy when Andhra Pradesh won the Santosh Trophy for the first time in 1956 under my captaincy. In the final at Trivandrum, in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh defeated Bombay by four goals.

However, the saddest moment in my life came when I heard the news of the premature death of Rahim He was, in fact, my "second father". Until his death Rahim was the bone behind the sinews of modern Indian football, and it was since his death that the standard of Indian football started deteriorating. Mr Ashoke Ghosh and Mr. Ziauddin, the Secretary and the President of the All-India Football Federation respectively, are now, no doubt, trying their best to improve the present standard of Indian football.

Another thing which really saddens me is the attitude of the contemporary footballers toward the game. Unlike us, the present players do not play football out of their love for the game and love for their country. They play football mainly for earning money. Alas! those good old days will probably never come back again.

As told to ABHIJIT GHOSH

March 1951: the first Asian Games.



On November 19, 1982, the Asian Games will return to the city where they were born.

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Focus

Where are the gentlemen?

DIE-HARDS usually say with a great deal of pessimism that the present is just not like the past. This is applicable to almost every walk of our life. And when it comes to cricket, this cannot but be palpably true.

For ages past it was accepted with the authority of an evident truth that cricket signifies the assimilation of those qualities which make a man's life noble. Today, when commercialisation has engraved its seal on almost everything in this earth, cricket has actually ceased to remain—at least at the top level where ability dwarfs the love for the game—what it stands for

"Cricket is an idea, it is an idea of the Gods", wrote Sir James Barrie. But the present generation of cricketers has transformed, by their behaviour, the good meaning behind the quotation into something like chivalry, thereby affecting the sobriety that is there in cricket The number of people who play cricket simply for the purpose of enjoying it are as extinct now as the 20-foot Megalosaurus According to a distinguished cricket writer, "The truest of all axioms about cricket is that it is as good as those who play it or, conversely, as bad".

"Why can't the players behave properly"? This is a delivery to which I am strokeless. For it has been noticed with increasing consternation that those who play the game today seldom behave decently on or off the field, thus throwing open their gentility to question When, in the Melbourne Test early this year, India's captain Sunil Gavaskar decided to leave the ground taking his opening partner along with him, he not merely lowered the lofty idea about him but also left a very bad example before the youngsters at the ground The youngsters who are the most sensitive to any wave of change, will soon realise that there is a strong legitimacy behind this act and start practising it in their own matches whenever any decision of the umpire meets their displeasure.

Impropriety in cricket these days goes deeper than just annovance at the umpire's decision. When Rodney Hogg, the Australian fast bowler, whacked a stump out of its slot with his foot instead of the ball, he did it not merely because the umpire had unknowingly erred but because a wicket had not been granted his way and that subsequent repetitions of this kind of acts may impose on him a fine of $ 500. When an Indian opener refused to budge from the crease when the snick was held, it was not because he thought his senses might have deceived him but he knew fully well that rious to the condition of the side which, in turn, given a little luck, may result in a windfall gain in the form of an Indian victory.

"Cut out the money and those fellows shall behave a lot beetter", I remember Godfrey Evans telling me in a chuckle.

It would be an exercise in futility and boredom if I deal with the present only without making any attempt to describe what the scene was some two generations ago, thereby endeavouring to portray cricket as it should be. And for modern relevance there could, perhaps, be no better character than J B. Hobbs, who was as magnanimous as magnificent in his dealings. Once batting against the Australians at Leeds, Hobbs made an attempt to hit a ball to the on-side off his backfoot and thus hit the stump with his retreating limb The bail fell, and the Australians appealed But, much to their alarm, the verdict went against them as the umpire contended that the stroke had been completed before the bail fell. The Australians became disheartened as a Hobbs dismissal meant half the winning of the game. "Two or three balls later Hobbs made a weak attempt to play a straight one and was bowled" "My impression", opined 'Monty' Noble, "was then—and still is—that Hobbs believed that he was out and deliberately allowed himself to be bowled"

That in a Test, an occasion described by Ian Chappell as "no place to be amicable" His opinion has found favour with most of the contemporary players. It is not unusual to find batsmen adroitly 'shifting' their legs just that much which baits the umpire into an error after the ball has hit their guilty pads Harvey, the former Australian Test cricketer, was a pleasing contrast He once 'walked' off even before the umpire had time to say, "Out, lbw". It is on the sacrifices in deed of men like him that made cricket an improving influence, unsullied by any kind of vice

Bert Oldfield was another one—the most charming man ever to put on the gloves and stand behind. He built up a formidable reputation for sheer courteousness, appealing only when he thought the bastman was out An unfortunate batsman doubting the legitimacy of an lbw decision would be expected to say, "I must be out, after all. Bertie appealed".

These days it is not so. Every second wicketkeeper who yells at an alarming decibel value does so to try his luck. When it is in the umpire makes a mistake and when it is not he can always publicise his chagrin by chuck-

example of daylight 'cheating a batsman out' took place in the Adelaide Test when the Indians visited them in 1977-78. Mohinder Amarnath played a ball which rose a little before gently descending on the turf around short-leg. Immediately after rebounding Gary Cosier clasped it and claimed a catch! The fielder got away with the judgement, but replays on television clearly revealed that the Indian had been 'done in' Later, when asked why he had even appealed, Cosier replied, "In excitement" Perhaps some imply that we ought to believe that they are reformed orang-outangs, expressing their delight in yelps when setting their digits on a rolling spheroid!

Last season's 'underarm' incident provided a fine opportunity for every critic to compete with the other in a bid to deliver the most vitriolic criticism Ian Chappell not the least. Condemning what one brother had planned, the other engineered And it was amusing to read how hypocritic could hypocrisy be. For I very well know the man who lowered his trousers to bare his essentials at an umpire during an argument, throwing his bat at another, wearing striped shoes in a Test match and among other things painting the atmosphere in the dressing room 'bluer' than what nature painted in the sky. He noted in his autography, "We would never take any step, financially or otherwise, which would in any way threaten the welfare of the game" Some players ought to read their books again.

The recent spate of behaviour, mostly undescribable and unnarratable in virgin terminology, has in its own way been also due to the negligence aired by the authorities The powers that are not always harsh to a fault, batting eyelids at critical moments and the players often get away without even a reprimand for offences prompting a court-martial The best bowler does the worst and next day you have his captain defending him. As somebody said, anything is possible these days Even then I am sure the poor man was not prepared for Dennis Lillee playing 'football' with the Pakistani captain Javed Miandad right in the heart of Perth's playing area

And then what of the future? Interring from the present we can draw a conclusion which, if told, may result in a gloomy prescience Bearing in mind the impregnability of commercialisation we can assume that in future sportsmanship and other words of the same meaning may well have their utility restricted to the dictionary There may come a time when the MCC unanimously decides to implement yellow cards, green, red and whatever and also has to request the U N for a peace-keeping force when a New Zealand-West Indies Test gets out of hand or when the representatives of each board are locked in a man to man combat at an ICC session

Sportsworld Exclusive

The B & H Cup competition begins

The limited-overs triangular series in Australia began dramatically with each team notching up a victory. DAVID McMAHON reports

Aussies vs West Indies

THERE have been some remarkable results in the matches of the current triangular series that has just got underway but the most astounding was without doubt Australia's dazzling victory against the West Indians at Sydney on November 24 Lloyd's men, batting first, scored 236 after yet another good start by Greenidge and Haynes and the Aussies were left with a difficult task They lost their first two wickets with only eight runs on the board and then swept back into the game losing only one more wicket on the way to a stupendous victory

Chappell gambled by leaving out utility man Bruce Yardley and reshuffling his batting order so that Bruce Laird and Rick Darling opened the innings with Graeme Wood coming in at number six for the first time in his international career. Lloyd also decided to concentrate on a pace attack and called on the services of Marshal, Roberts, Garner, Holding and Croft. Lloyd won the toss but elected to bat in the sunshine, preferring to allow Australia the task of chasing the total and the lights Greenidge and Haynes were subdued in the early overs against Lawson and Alderman but once the 13-over mark was passed they went for their shots with ruthless efficiency Just as they were beginning to look good for yet another century partnership, Thomson came on as first change bowler and removed both openers and then Bacchus as the tourists slumped quickly to 3 for 98

But Lloyd and Richards soon had the situation under control with the former in particular displaying awesome power As if on cue Lloyd marked to his 50 in less than even time, thumping the bowlers to every corner of the SCG but Richards fell just when it looked as though the Australians were being pushed on to the ropes. This pair had added 72 runs in only 57 minutes but Richards set out for a quick single, was sent back and saw a marvellous return from Shawn Graf enabled Chappell to run him out for 47

Lloyd's fast bowlers rose to the occasion throwing the bat at everything and the SCG crowd was treated to a fine display of hitting but the scoreboard did not show as many runs as Lloyd would have wanted When the West Indian skipper was eventually caught by Thomson off the bowling of Jeff Lawson for a belligerent 63 there was little that the remaining batsmen could do to accelerate the scoring. The total of 236 was not as good as Lloyd had perhaps hoped for earlier in the game but it was a comfortable sum of runs in the bank.

When Rick Darling went caught behind off Michael Holding's second over Australia had only seven runs on the board and the home supporters' spirits dropped even further when Greg Chappell went only one run after The Australian captain was lbw to Andy Roberts and only the most rabid Australian supporter would have dared venture a wager on the possibility of Chappell's men forcing a win

But force a win they did. And in such style that it looked, at the finish, like an impossibly heroic film script. Allan Border joined Laird at the wicket and unleashed some sizzling strokes, announcing his intention of staging a classic come-from-behind win. The stylish little left-hander delighted the 27,000 strong SCG crowd as he savagely attacked the West Indian fast bowlers to accelerate the scoring rate beyond that established by the tourists



Bruce Laird—dazzling ton

Border went on the rampage, even coming down the track to hoist Garner of all people for a thundering six that clappered into the stand. But even as things seemed to be looking good for the Australians Border was run out by a brilliant throw from Desmond Hynes Hughes, the next man in, played himself in for a couple of overs and then he and Laird simply massacred the dreaded battery of West Indian fast bowlers With 12 overs remaining, Australians were going well but required 67 runs with 7 wickets to go but Hughes and Laird marched on regardless, unwavering in concentration for offence Laird flicked beautifully for a single to bring up his century and about 200 fans ran on to the field to congratulate him. Play was held up temporarily when it was discovered that a stump had been stolen in the process but even that did not prevent Australia from reaching their target with 3 overs to spare Bruce Laird took the "Man of the Match" award for his brilliant 117 not out while Kim Hughes, who ended with an unbeaten 62 reminded his critics yet again that he can still play winning cricket under pressure. And a last word about the consistantly brilliant Allan Border. He scored only 29 but he was the one who turned the tables on the West Indians, a tactical advantage converted later into a morale boosting victory by Laird and Hughes who set the SCG alight as they steered their country home.

West Indies vs Pakistan

THE weekend of November 21-22 brought plenty of thrills for cricket lovers in Australia On Saturday, the West Indies beat Pakistan by 18 runs in the opening match of the season and the next day, Australia went down to Javed Miandad's Pakistanis with only four deliveries to spare. West Indies and Pakistan, therefore, head the World Series Cup table with two points each, although the former, with a win in their only game, have the best aggregate at the time of writing.

Against Pakistan the West Indies batted first, with Greenidge and



Greenidge—good start

Haynes rattling up a record 182 for the opening stand. Greenidge finished with a flamboyant century, caught Rizwan bowled Sarfraz for 103 while Haynes lost his wicket to Mudassar for 84 With so many runs on the board, there was never any real pressure on the batsmen who followed. It was, therefore, not surprising to see them throwing their bats at everything that came their way

The results were predictable and wickets began to fall rapidly. Richards, perhaps, hampered by a mild attack of conjunctivitis, made only 17 before he was dismissed by Imran. Both Bacchus and Lloyd fell to Sarfraz for 8 and 10 respectively while Roberts, Garner and Gomes returned to the dressing room without adding a single run to the total.

The West Indies finished with 245 for 8 off the allotted 50 overs; Sarfraz took 4 for 37 and Imran 3 for 23. Pakistan, however, would have been in a much better position had they fielded as well as they did in the first Test against Australia Haynes was dropped twice before he had scored and later on 58 Greenidge, who ravaged the bowling in grand fashion was put down at 72. In addition, 13 runs came from misfields by Miandad's men while the Pakistani bowlers were no-balled quite often.

By way of contrast, Lloyd's men fielded magnificently with Richards outstanding as usual. After Garner had struck the first blow dismissing Rizwan for 14, Pakistani's innings wavered, faltered and then swept back into momentum before falling short of the mark in the grand last-ditch effort. Miandad top scored with 74 while Mudassar got 51 and Majid, at number 6, propped up the innings with 56 in only 72 minutes. But none of these performances overshadowed that of Greenidge who took the man of the match award

Pakistan vs Aussies

THE next day, there was some surprising decisions made by the umpires most of which were noticeably in favour of the home team. Greame Wood survived an appeal for a catch off the first ball Behind the wicket Allan Border escaped a run out that looked suspiciously close and the Pakistanis were left shaking their heads in disbelief

Manager Ijaz Butt retaliated by informing the Australian Cricket Board that two leading Australian umpires Tony Crafter and Mel Johnson are "unacceptable" and should not officiate in the second Test He also mentioned that his players were bitter about the series of decisions in Sunday's game. "All the decisions favoured Australia," he said "It has left a bad taste with our players The standard of umpiring here is bad "



Miandad—good knock



Sikander Bakht

Australia made three changes in the side that did duty in the first Test Rick Darling replaced injured Graham Yallop with Shaun Graf and Geoff Lawson also coming in to the tail The home team batted first finishing at 209 for 9 off 50 overs, Kim Hughes top scoring with a grand 67 Darling opening the innings with Wood finished with 41, while, Yardley and Marsh did their share of breezy hitting with 28 and 15, respectively The bowler who did the damage was Sikander Bakht with 4 for 34

Pakistan lost their first wicket that of Mansoor with only 19 runs on the board and Zaheer went following an astounding caught behind decision only two runs later But Mudassar stayed with his captain and laid a grand foundation for the victory that at one stage looked impossible He fell to Chappell for 44 but the tailenders kept their team in the race Imran remained not out at 28 at the finish when Pakistan scored the winning run in the last over Recognition went where it was due and Miandad took the "Man of the Match" award for his brilliant 72 which was his third successive score of 50 plus in Australia.

England draw first blood

HARESH MUNWANI reports from Ahmedabad

ANYTHING that is less than five runs an over will be no problem for this English team in one-day cricket After all, they play so much of this limited overs cricket in England. The 50-over International at Ahmedabad served as an occasion to emphasise the nuances of one-day cricket as displayed by the English team as they beat India by five wickets, with thirteen deliveries to spare

There was a lot of dew in the morning at Ahmedabad Captain Keith Fletcher won the toss and without any hesitation put the Indians in—knowing that, except for the unforseen, his fast bowlers Willis, Botham and Lever would be able to exploit the conditions He said "The wicket was damp and the ball was moving. And though the ball did a great deal in the first hour, it was still deviating that little bit in the afternoon. It was not a good wicket for a one-day game."

Five precious minutes were lost after the players arrived at the wicket because there was a mopping operation on to get rid of the dew in certain sections of the ground And with lunch fixed for 1 P.M this meant that the number of overs would be reduced from the original 50 This also suited the English team, because this meant that their fifth bowler, Graham Gooch, would not have to bowl his allotted ten overs

Earlier, the English team were not very happy when their suggestion of limiting all the one-day Internationals to 45 overs a side was turned down. Raman Subba Row, the manager felt: "We were told that Jullundur, where the second one-day game is to be played, will not have light for 50 overs, so that particular game is to be reduced by five overs. At that stage, we had said that there should be uniformity in the playing conditions" But obviously, to bowl 50 overs at a stretch in the Indian sun had its own problems

Anyway, to get back to the game itself The condition of the wicket was just the encouragement the English bowlers needed to get rid of Sunil Gavaskar, their main target. Sunil chased an outgoing Willis delivery to be caught by Gooch in the slips Earlier, Srikkanth once again fell to some intelligent bowling by Ian Botham. The bowler had employed the same ploy in the one-day game at Bombay—Botham bowled a string of outswingers and then sent in an inswinger Srikkanth had unconsciously expected it to be an outswinger Both openers were out without scoring and this obviously gave the initiative to the English team.

Vishwanath started confidently, but soon drove Gooch with his head in the air and gave a catch in the covers to Cook. Azad joined Vengsarkar and the two set about the task of bringing India back into the game. Although the scoring rate at this stage was three an over, the loss of those three wickets was something India could not afford.

Vengsarkar had two lives, at 19 and 23, when Fletcher and Botham dropped him. But Dilip carried on unaffected and ensured that there was no further damage done by the English bowlers. At this stage, Lever had given away 16 runs in his four overs while Gooch had proved expensive with seven overs yielding 28 runs. Fletcher brought in Underwood—otherwise, the earlier effort of Willis and Botham would have been wasted Willis had the analysis of 6-3-12-1 and Botham, even better, 6-4-3-1.

Underwood really tied the batsmen down. He varied his line and length to keep Vengsarkar and Kirti Azad guessing. Underwood held one back and Dilip was committed to the stroke only to give a return catch to the bowler Vengsarkar contributed 46.

Kirti Azad lifted Lever for a six over



Mike Gatting—highest scorer



Vengsarkar—capitalised on lives

mid-wicket and Fletcher soon replaced Lever with Botham, who immediately met success when he found the gap between Azad's bat and pad to knock his stumps down.

Kirmani and Shastri did their little bit in propping up the innings. They were associated in a 35-run stand for the seventh wicket. At lunch, 46 overs had been bowled and India managed 156 for 8 Underwood, Willis and Botham had given less than 20 runs each in their allotted overs.

With the change in the rules, the overs bowled up to lunch would be repeated for England Getting 157 runs in 46 overs was obviously not too great a task for the one-day specialists.

Although the beginning was cautious, it was soon apparent that the Indian medium pacers, Madan Lal, Randhir Singh and Test discard Roger Binny, would not be able to contain the England batsmen Binny did chip in with three for 35, getting opener Gooch for 23, caught Kirmani, Cook caught Vishwanath 13 and Gower with a caught and bowled effort when the batsman was eight But he did not get adequate support from Madan Lal, although the latter helped in checking the run rate and bagging the prize wicket of Boycott who was leg before for just five runs

What actually changed the course of the match—from an uncertain 46 for 3 and 61 for 4—was the inability of the left-arm spinners, Dilip Doshi and Ravi Shastri, to restrict the run rate and thereby put presure on the England batsmen In fact, England moved from 67 in 23 overs to 117 in 38, without any further loss as these bowlers toiled on fruitlessly Doshi's only success was Fletcher's scalp after the England captain had made a valuable 23 Mike Gatting collared the bowling well and Ian Botham resorted to some lusty hits to take England on a smooth cruise Gatting, particularly, was confident throughout, pushing and prodding his way to an unbeaten 47, the highest individual score in a match

It was not a match that the Indians would like to remember, except for the unsuccessful debut of Randhir Singh Ravi Shastri's bowling efforts were entirely futile, though he did chip in with a useful 18 runs towards the end of the Indian innings

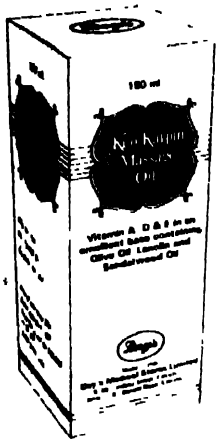
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One who made it...

Madan Lal: I am more sensible now

THOUGH he last played for India from seasons back—when he toured Australia with Bedi's team—Madan's recall to Test team was expected. After his brilliant performances in domestic cricket there was no way he could have been excluded Consider the statistics: last season he got a century in the Irani Cup, scored two separate hundreds against the Railways in Ranji, chipped in with 76 runs and eight wickets in one innings in the Ranji final against Bombay. These are only some of Madan's notable achievements Numerous other useful contributions could also be listed

This season also he has maintained last year's amazing form In the Irani match at Indore he first dismissed three recognised batsmen, when the placid wicket had flattered all other medium pacers. Later he battled to a dogged, undefeated 97, when Shastri was turning the ball square on the treacherous track In the Duleep tie at Trivandrum, Madan made good use of the wet wicket to demolish South with 7 for 40 And playing against the Services recently he compiled an unbeaten century.

This all-round ability of Madan is much needed by India. As a bowler he might not be Kapil's peer in striking ability, but Madan can bowl long spells with great accuracy. Kapil's load will be considerably lessened. Moreover, Madan is a very tidy bowler, and even on unresponsive tracks gives little away

As a batsman he has vastly improved. Difference against the new ball is a thing of the past: he shirked that off quite some time back. More assured now, Madan could greatly stiffen the fragile middle order. In fielding, of course, few can match his superb fielding. From the longest of boundaries his throw-ins are flat, fast and accurate And not many fieldsmen have hands as safe as Madan's

The series against England poses an acid test for this likeable unassuming 30-year-old all-rounder (16 Tests· 428 runs, average 17.23: 29 wickets at 33 68 each) He has to put up a good performance to salvage his reputation. Regarding the outcome one thing is certain: 'Maddi' will try his best for he is a fierce competitor indeed.

SPORTSWORLD met Madan before he left for Ahmedabad for the one-day international The following are excerpts from the interview

On return to Test cricket: I am very happy because playing for my country is a great honour. Playing in a Test match involves a great thrill which is difficult to describe. Though I had been expecting this after my showing in recent matches, when someone who had heard the news told me about my selection, I was happily surprised.

On his ambition: I want to do well for India. You see I have scored runs and also earned wickets in all other competitions. But in Test matches my performance is not that well. Now that I have got another chance I hope I can fulfil my disire Succeeding in Test matches will give me a great deal of satisfaction.

On his recent performances: At the moment things are coming along fine I guess it is one of those phases when you seem to do everything right just as there are times when nothing goes right. I have had scored plenty of runs in the matches I have played till now but Test. *"Mein kuchh karna hai"*

On maturing over the years: Yes, I think I am a more mature cricketer today than what I was when I played last for the country I am more sensible now It is just a matter of experience As you keep playing, you learn and become better Earlier, I think I tried only to bowl fast Now it is not that I know what I am doing now. I have more control I bowl now a tighter line and do not spray the ball around as I used to do sometimes earlier And I think I can move the ball better.

On batting with a helmet: It has been a great help to me. The helmet has given me a lot of confidence First played with it about two-three years ago I found it to be very helpful. Since then I always bat with a helmet on, at least in all first class games.

On his training schedule: Actually, I don't train too much Before the season begins I go for runs. Not something very elaborate, just a few rounds on the field I don't even play other games to keep fit. One game is enough I think.

On playing club cricket in England: I have been playing for six seasons now for Enfield Club in the Lancashire League The standard may not be very high but you learn a lot in the 25-odd matches you get to play in the season. The attitude of even an ordinary club cricketer in England is so different to our outlook here. Mohinder, Kapil, Roberts and Holding played in the Lancashire League.

On the English batsmen: There are some very good batsmen in their team. Amongst those whom I have seen I think Gooch is a very fine batsman. He plays good shots and could be very dangerous Gower, Boycott, Fletcher, and Botham are all experienced cricketer. Let's see.

Madan Lal—he is expected to celebrate his re-entry into Test team with good performance



...And one who didn't

Chetan Chauhan: I am not upset

FEW followers of the game anticipated the sudden exclusion of Chetan Chauhan, 34, from the Test team. A veteran of 40 Tests, with 2000 plus runs, Chetan first played for India 12 years back and combining with Gavaskar, he has formed one of the most successful opening pairs in the history of Test cricket. Last season on the twin tour of Australia and New Zealand he did an admirable job and, even if his current form has been somewhat indifferent, his exclusion does appear unwarranted—and drastic. If a player is to be weighed merely by his last few performances as the selectors have done in Chetan's case, then even Vishwanath and Shivlal should not be anywhere near the Test side.

Actually, Chetan must have grown quite used to being dumped by the selectors. Following his debut against New Zealand in 1969 he played only five Tests in a period of almost five years and after that for the next five years he did not play any Tests at all. Resurrected at the time of the 1977/78 Australian tour, Chetan went on to partner Gavaskar on the tours of Pakistan (1978-79), England (1979) and Australia and New Zealand (1980-81) His prime virtue is the ability to 'fight' and to withstand pressure. Without getting awed by quick bowling, despite countless injuries, he rarely loses his wicket before making the bowler slog At the crease he is unflappable and even if a ball beats him, Chetan's characteristic grin never leaves his face. These qualities are not unimportant. In fact, for any opener they are vital, even though so many people choose to overlook them and instead incessantly harp on Chetan's batting flaws. That's very unfair, for there is a great deal to commend in Chetan's batting Sportsworld *met Chetan after the team was announced. Fresh, after his morning workout Chetan was absolutely cool. He spoke about his exclusion and his batting form without betraying any sign of disappointment·*

SW: When did you know about the team?

CC: I had gone to Allahabad for some personal work and was sitting with a friend of mine when I learnt about being dropped from the team over the evening news of A.I.R.

SW: Your first reactions?

CC: Well, I was disappointed—as any other human being would have been—for it is a great honour to represent one's country. But I was not upset. I am a mature person, have played cricket for more than 15 years and I fully understand that this is a part of the game. And I have been out before too.



Chetan Chauhan—discarded from first Test for his inconsistent form

SW: Did you expect this?

CC: Honestly I did not I thought I would get a few matches in the beginning I had a successful tour of Australia and New Zealand. And nobody can say that I don't put in 100 per cent effort for the country. I have always tried my best

SW: Have the selectors been unfair in ignoring your vast experience and concentrating on your few failures this year?

CC: No, no I wouldn't say they have been unfair. They are the best to judge the composition of the team and I have absolutely no grouse at all. Nobody would be happier than me if India do well in the Tests and win the series. I wish Gavaskar and the boys all success in the matches For Srikkanth I wish the very best. He is a fine young cricketer. He should be fully encouraged.

SW: Why haven't you been among the runs this year?

CC: I have not played many innings this year—just six or seven knocks. I don't want to sound as if I am complaining, but this season I am yet to play on a good track. At Chandigarh in the Deodhar Trophy the wicket was very slow. The ball would stop after landing and it wasn't conducive for strokeplay. In Trivandrum (Duleep Trophy) it was damp, because of what one ball from Roger climbed off a length. Against Services (Ranji match) there were wet patches on the wicket In the Haryana game the wicket was absolutely wet, because of the rain. Though Kapil was bowling very well and turning the ball dangerously, I did last a long time.

SW: Are you facing any new problems in your batting?

CC: Not really I think I am batting like I have always done. There is nothing wrong In fact, I think I am batting quite well. If runs haven't been coming, it is because of bad luck, I guess. I am sure I'll be back among the runs soon.

SW: Do you think you are trying too hard?

CC: It could be one reason. Every time I go in I tell myself that I have to play a long innings. Maybe because of that I get bogged down At Indore, in the Irani game, I got out to spinners in both the innings after seeing the new ball through. When I think about it now, I feel that I could have probably attacked at that time and got runs a little more quickly.

SW: Wouldn't you have liked to play against the tourists before the Test matches?

CC: Yes, I wish I had got a.. opportunity to play, at least in the Board President's team. I think that would have been good. You see I haven't played too much cricket this season. Earlier also I was not picked for the Wills Trophy teams. I could have benefited from the practice one gets from playing matches

SW: What do you see for yourself in the future?

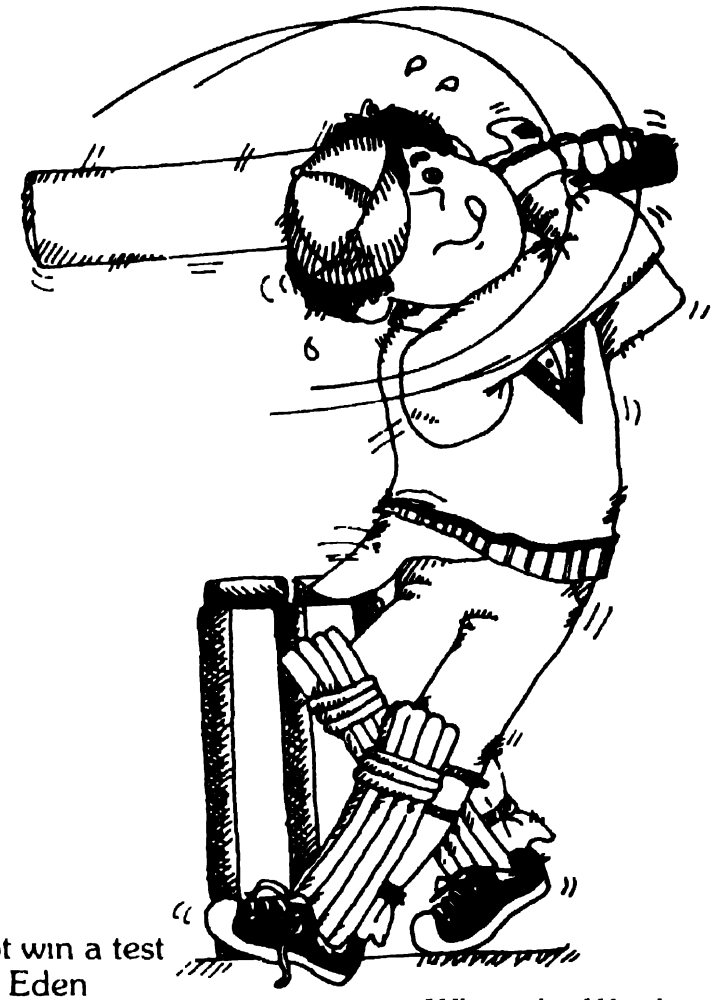
CC: There is still a lot of cricket in me, I feel. I have been training quite hard and am determined to work harder still to get back into the national side. Actually, you have to take things as they come In cricket it is not possible to say what is going to happen in future. All one can do is put in a honest effort.

SW: From your experience against the English team, which bowler do you think will trouble our batsmen?

CC: I wouldn't like to use the word trouble. A lot will depend on the kind of pitches you are playing on. But the English team does have good bowlers. Underwood and Emburey are extremely experienced. Both push the ball through, are very tight and give nothing away even on unresponsive wickets. They can test anyone's patience. England's trump card will be Ian Botham. What a great trier that man is! He never gives up—on any wicket, anywhere He is perfectly capable of coming up with an exceptional performance at any time.

AMRIT MATHUR

howzzat!



Do you know?

England did not win a test against India at Eden Gardens, Calcutta till 1977.

Richie Benaud, captain of the Australian team from 1958 to 1963, was the first person in test cricket history, to score 2000 runs and claim 200 wickets

Pakistan is the only team ever to have won a test on their very first tour of England

Although Pakistan had had several successes against the West Indies, India did not beat them until March 1971

Frank Worrell's West Indies was the only losing team ever to have been given a ticker tape farewell after their tour of Australia in 1960-61

When the Windies toured Australia in 1930-31, they were in such a terrible state of disorganization that many members of the team met each other for the first time on the voyage out.

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West hold MCC

HARESH MUNWANI reports from Baroda

KEITH FLETCHER, the England captain, said. "We have used this game as a build-up for the first Test. For that reason, we have played this match against West Zone as if it was a Test match " The form of all his players, except Graham Gooch, should be enough to give Fletcher the required confidence before the Test begins.

Chris Tavare got 96—his third consecutive not out innings David Gower scored 33 and 39 not out and Fletcher himself scored an unbeaten knock of 39. The England bowlers spun out the West Zone for a paltry 179 The performance of the English side only lends credence to their image of being true professionals Otherwise, where will one find a team having nets during the lunch break and at the end of the day during a match—which is what Fletcher's men have been doing?

The Duleep Trophy champions were not at full strength without Gavaskar, Vengsarkar, Patil and Shastri and preferred to drop Balwinder Sandhu and Zulfiqar Parkar, both of whom had served West Zone well in the Duleep final This season, Karsan Ghavri has been lacking the control that once ensured his place in the national side. Under the circumstances, the burden fell on the faithful Uday Joshi But the bowler whom one had to watch carefully was Dhiraj Parsana, the left-arm spinner

Geoff Boycott and Chris Tavare played the kind of innings that is expected of them Both seemed in no hurry and it was soon obvious that until and unless they themselves commit a mistake, it would be difficult to dismiss them With not much in the bowling to test them, David Gower and Keith Fletcher were more intent on playing themselves in

Before play commenced on the second day, Fletcher declared the innings with the score reading 278 for four wickets Bob Willis, Ian Botham and Graham Dilley soon snapped up a wicket each and West Zone were in dire trouble. Suru Nayak joined his captain Ashok Mankad at 46 for 3. What followed next was a fighting stand of 70 runs, but John Emburey removed both of them and with Dinesh Nanavati being medically advised not to play, the West were up against it. The little resistance that came from the tailenders was provided by Narayan Satham and Parsana. In the process, Satham took a few blows on his body Even after his side was



Bob Willis—may prove dangerous

For your record book

December 9-14 Bangalore Test

ENGLAND AT BANGALORE

England and India have met only once at Bangalore and that was in the 4th Test of the 1976-77 series. India won that Test by 140 runs.

BRIEF SCORES WITH RESULT

India won by 140 runs (England 196, 177; India 293, 260—9 decl.)

CENTURIES

No centuries scored. For England, D L Amiss with 82 was the highest scorer; while for India G. R. Vishwanath with 79 not out was the top

5 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS OR 10 WICKETS IN A MATCH

FOR ENGLAND

6—63 R. G. D. Willis

FOR INDIA

6—71 B. S Bedi (2nd Innings)
6—76 B S Chandrasekhar (1st Innings)

...LED BY VIJAYAN BALA

bowled out for a meagre total, he could have created some trouble if he had had a responsive wicket Derek Underwood has slowed down a bit

Uday Joshi—the burden fell on him



A. SYAMA REDDY

since we last saw him in India In the remaining one hour's play, England managed to get 49 for the loss of Graham Gooch. The Essex player did not seem too happy about the manner in which he was given out to Parsana. The way England were going about their job, a fourth successive victory could not be ruled out at this stage.

Botham joined Boycott when play began on the third and last day Botham was out in trying to force the pace Fletcher declared at 171 for 2 with Boycott unbeaten on 73 and Gower not out on 33. West had 150 minutes and 20 mandatory overs to get 271 for a victory Said Mankad "I think our bowling and fielding were good We restricted the England score The bowlers in particular ensured that Boycott, Botham and Gower were not able to cut loose and this prevented Fletcher from declaring earlier on. I made it very clear to the boys that in this match we could not really go all out because our resources were limited. At least this way we will be able to salvage some pride

But after just 59 runs had been scored the middle order lay exposed as three batsmen were back in the pavilion Once again the home team's brittle batting had been the cause of their failure. Suru Nayak joined Ashok Mankad and the two set about the task of repairing the damage Just 29 overs had been bowled in the post-lunch session at the expense of 77 runs Sensing the sweet smell of success the England bowlers, particularly Emburey and Underwood, tried to put on pressure. Their perseverence paid when Mankad was caught behind off Emburey Satham replaced Ashok at the crease: The two were together till close.

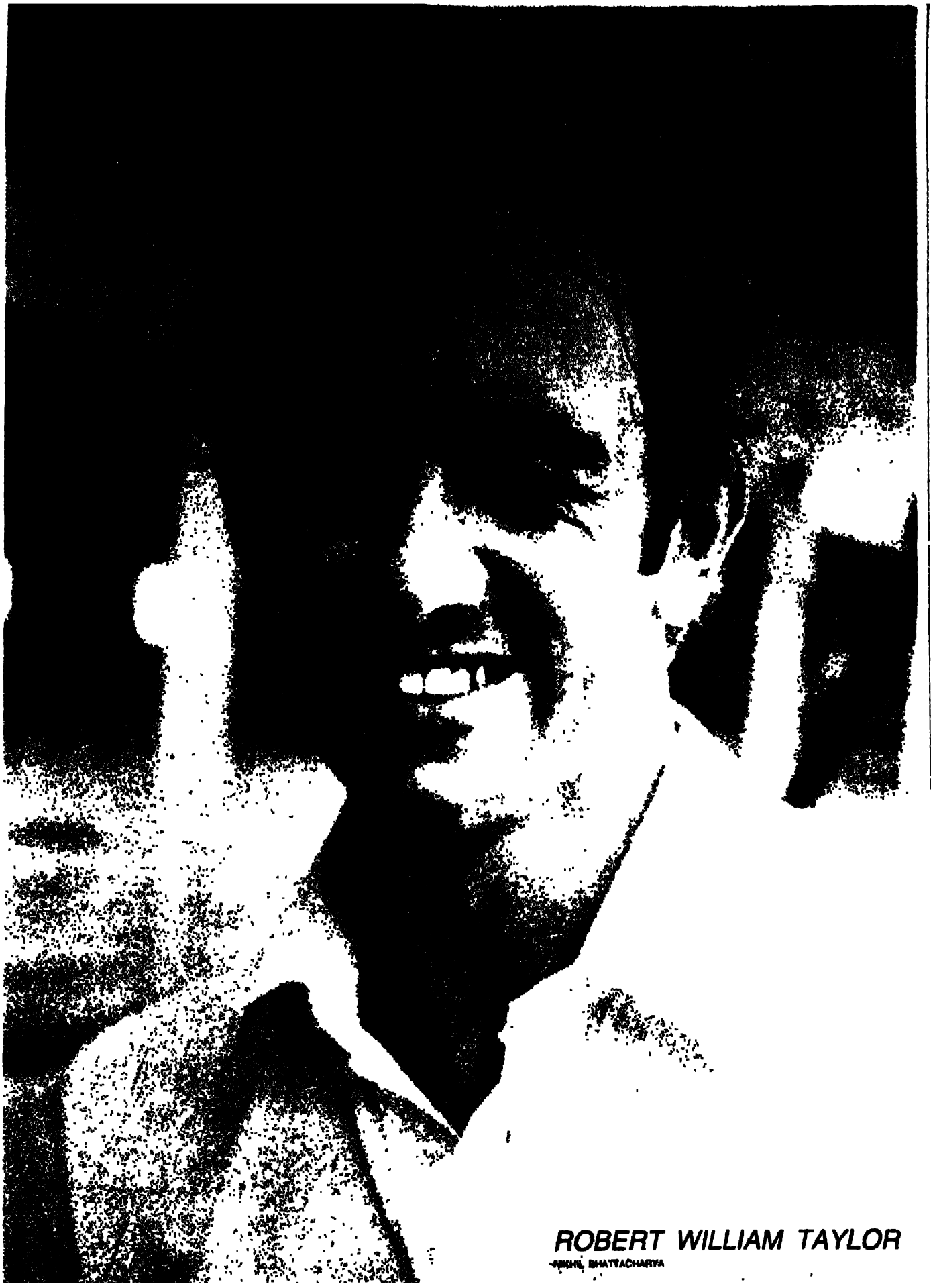
Nayak played with a deep sense of responsibility The left-hander displayed the vast range of his strokes in his unbeaten 77 which included 13



Chris Tavare—equally good both at slip and with the bat

fours. "I played with a heavy responsibility It was without doubt the best knock of my career Initially I was curbing myself, but later on when I found that my shots were clicking, I opened out" Ashok sent Nayak two down and said: 'Suru is a left-hander and at that time Underwood had just started his spell I felt Suru would be able to negotiate Underwood better His good showing in the first innings prompted me to send him earlier"

The 26-year-old Nayak received some valuable support from Satham, who remained with 42 in a total of 197 for 4. Skipper Keith Fletcher's decision to declare five minutes before the lunch break raised a lot of eyebrows Explaining the reasons, Fletcher confessed "I thought I had enough runs in the bag The bowlers had a good target to try and bowl the West Zone out for a win. In England we have a rule that if you declare five minutes from the lunch break, lunch is taken five minutes earlier. Apparently the rules here are different and so instead of having lunch for 45 minutes, we had it for 50"



ROBERT WILLIAM TAYLOR

NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Scrapbook

BOB TAYLOR

HE is 40, short and slim, prematurely grey, and now reinstated as England's number one wicketkeeper Indeed, people have rated him as the safest man behind the stumps in England in the last decade, and that includes Alan Knott, who was, perhaps, almost as good, but, no doubt, much superior as a batsman. One refers, of course, to Robert William (Bob) Taylor

The Derbyshire man's is a quiet efficiency. He is brilliant but unspectacular And on most occasions people do not notice how good he is Indeed, when he caught Geoff Lawson off Bob Willis in Australia's second innings at Headingley this summer, he had held more catches than anyone else who has ever played first-class cricket He needs another 80 odd victims to eclipse J.T Murray's record of the greatest number of scalps, which means the former middlesex 'keeper stumped a lot, primarily because there were more spinners around in his days—the 50s and 60s—than currently "I would like to beat that and at the present rate I should get there in another two years", says Taylor

The little man's entry into Tests was as a result of Alan Knott opting for World Series Cricket in 1977 He went to Pakistan and New Zealand, took on the same teams the following summer, was away in Australia the next two winters, and clashed swords with India in between But the Jubilee Test in Bombay—in which he gloved ten catches, another world record—was his last Test appearance until this summer

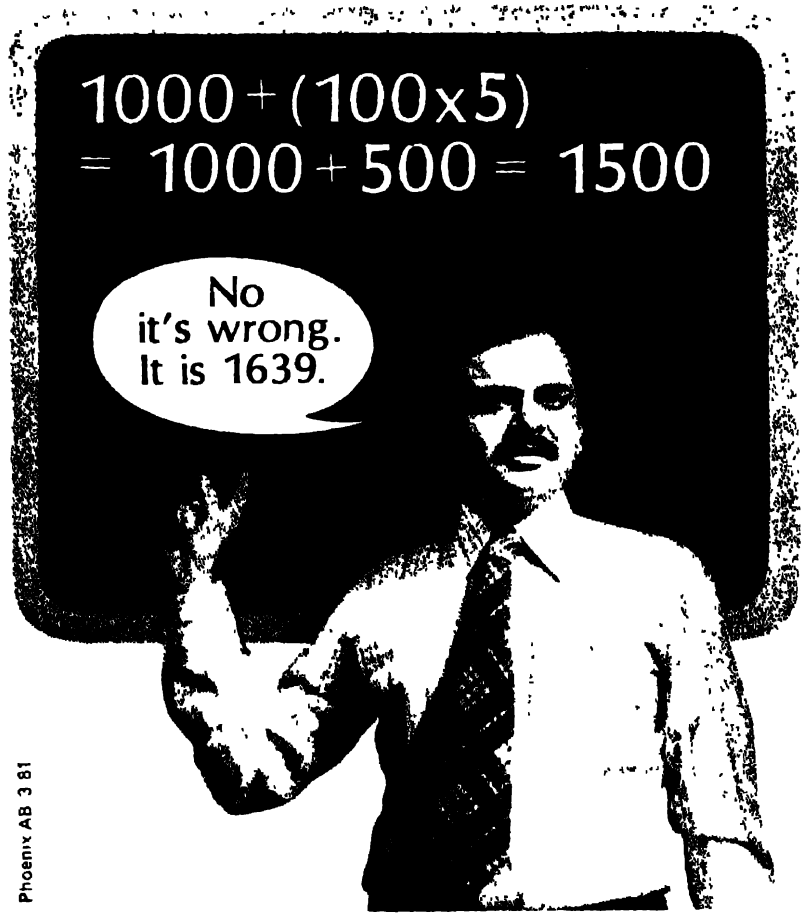
But most Indians will probably remember him in the Jubilee Test for his recall to the crease by Gundappa Vishwanath after being given out caught behind England were in dire distress at that stage, with Ian Botham, at the other end, the only recognised batsman left to cope with the situation Had Taylor gone, the Somerset allrounder might have been hard put to score the century he did, which in its wake placed England in a match-winning position But the two, after the reprieve lent by the Indian captain, put on a 150 odd to grind India to the dust as it were

After that game, England were seemingly looking for younger players *to take over, and David Bairstow and Paul Downton, after Alan Knott had failed, were the men in prominence* But the experiment did not quite work out, and, so, it was back to Taylor for the early part of the Australian series this year

The fact that he did not survive the six Tests was not because he did anything awful in the four Tests that he played He might have been slightly below at Edgbaston, but the main cause of his omission in the next two—much resented in the media—was the need to strengthen the batting, and thus the re-entry of Knott.

Actually, Knott played a match saving innings in the final Test at The Oval, which probably would have sealed Taylor's fate as far as going to India. But fortunately for the latter, the Kent 'keeper was unavailable for the tour, and much to the delight of numerous cricket lovers in England, his ticket to the sub-continent was ensured

Taylor is what one would call an establishment man—he remained loyal to the authorities during the Packer split "I am a traditionalist at heart," says Taylor, who was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) this year. He has now reached a ripe old age, but seems to be able to maintain his form quite effortlessly "I'm keeping as well, if not better, than I've ever done I'm fit and I love it



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and I just want to get on with the job", he remarks

And what about the Indian tour? He said some time ago, "I very much want to go I still enjoy playing and if I can do a good job, I will keep on." In India, he will certainly please the purist with his anticipation and cleanliness behind the wicket, not to mention his modesty and unassuming ways off the field

CHRIS TAVARE

AFTER eleven hours at the crease against the dreaded West Indian attack last year, which covered two Tests and the same number of one day internationals, Christopher James Tavare was sent a letter by the chairman of the selection committee, Alec Bedser saying that he had been dropped from the England squad

Tavare had scored an unbeaten 82- which won him the Man of the Match award - in the over limit encounter at Headingley and a near half century in the first Test at Trent Bridge, but, by and large, in the two five-day meetings, he struggled for his runs His protagonists, of course, maintained that he was the right answer for England against the paucity of players having the ability to play long innings But the selectors thought otherwise, though handling the matter with appropriate tact and compassion

Bedser is said to have stated in his letter of a year and a half ago that "this was not the end of the world Peter May, Ken Barrington and Graham Gooch had all been dropped early in their careers before establishing themselves" And he told the Press "I am sure he will come back"

And come back he did, with a couple of half centuries to boot against the Australians this summer, and so, not surprisingly, he's with Fletcher's side in India

In a way, cricket runs through the Tavare family Chris's father, a solicitor, played club cricket and was in the Chatham House School side when the former Prime Minister, Ted Heath was scorer As for today's star, he, after a stint at the indoor school at Sevenoaks—which has been the starting point of many Kent cricketers—made his County debut in 1974 before going to Oxford where he won a Blue in each of his three seasons, indeed, he emerged from the university with a degree in zoology and a fair reputation as a batsman

In fact, in 1978, a lot of good judges of the game thought that he would be in the England party for Australia But that did not happen nor did he get a break against India the following summer, despite some success when turning out for MCC versus the tourists

Colin Page, manager of Kent, said of Tavare last year. "He is a thoroughbred and the time is right for him to run in better company Tav is also a first class slip fielder And England could do with some good slips

"He is a thinker. If he has a fault he goes into the nets and works on it" As an extension to this, Tavare remarks "People used to tell me I stood too straight so I tried to crouch, but ended up over doing it"

Brought up in the Colin Cowdrey school of thought, Tavare likes to build an innings rather than go for his shots from the very outset But unlike his illustrious predecessor he lacks variety in his strokeplay, and often gets somewhat bogged down. Number three has been a problem position for England, and having been thrust into this slot, and got some runs in the bargain, he is now deemed in English cricket as having solved the dilemma. But despite his excellent temperament, he hardly possesses the talent to dominate bowlers, as first drop batsmen must do So, whether he will continue as first wicket down in India is a matter for conjecture But he could be quite invaluable at number five and in any case, his catching close to the wicket makes him an asset.

DEREK UNDERWOOD

WITH 279 wickets in Tests, more than 2,000 in first class cricket and three visits to India behind him, Derek Leslie Underwood, 36, is clearly the most experienced bowler in the England touring party And having been ignored by the selectors for the past year and a half he has a point to prove to the powers that be in English cricket, which makes him all the more dangerous, especially since at least a couple of the Test pitches in India are likely to help him considerably

Underwood is not a classical left arm spinner Indeed, in the early part of his career he used to operate at almost medium pace But "Deadly" as he is nicknamed by his colleagues has come a long way from the days of digging it in, when he would earn purchase at the Test level only if there was a bit of moisture on the pitch With the passage of time he has learnt to vary his pace and also the angle of his delivery which has posed quite a few problems to batsmen One recalls the interesting incident at the Eden Gardens five years ago when the slow, dusty track was much too pensive for the Indian spinners, but Underwood extracted more life out of it because of his extra pace, and, at least, in the latter stages had a decisive say in the match

Underwood made his debut for Kent in 1963 and won his cap the following year, which made him the second youngest player in this County to receive the recognition Two seasons later, he was elected the best young cricketer in England, and in 1968 the *Wisden Almanack* chose him as one of its five best cricketers The last mentioned honour resulting substantially out of an impressive showing against Bill Lawry's Australians that summer However, his best bowling figures in Tests is the one at the expense of Pakistan at Lord's—8 for 51

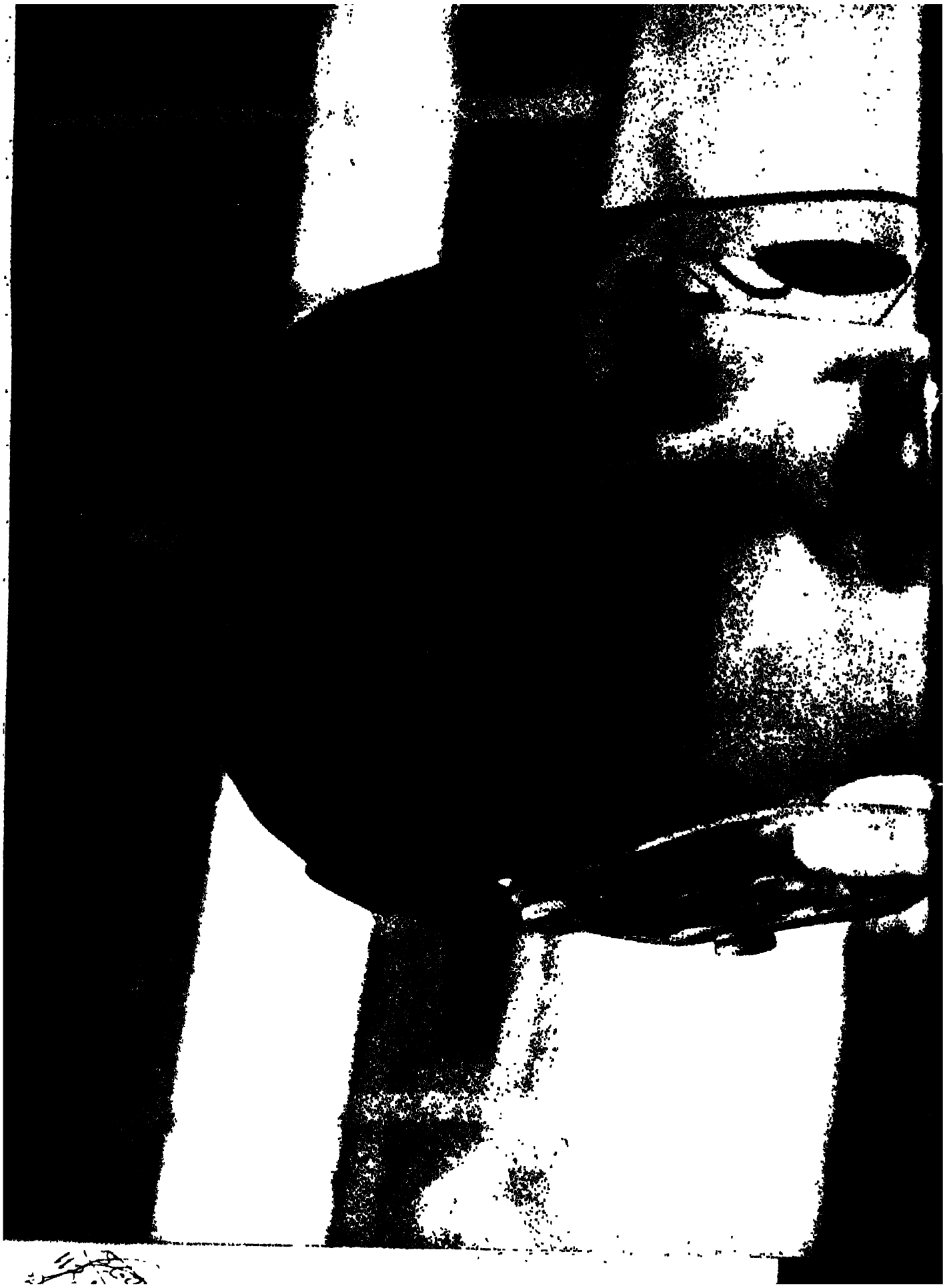
Sandy-haired, dogged yet amiable, Underwood lost a few friends when signing up for Packer One remembers his six wickets at Old Trafford against Greg Chappell's side in 1977, when he was virtually at the peak of his prowess But his services were to be lost to England until the tour of Australia winter before last, when he was reckoned to be over the hill He did little to alter this impression the following

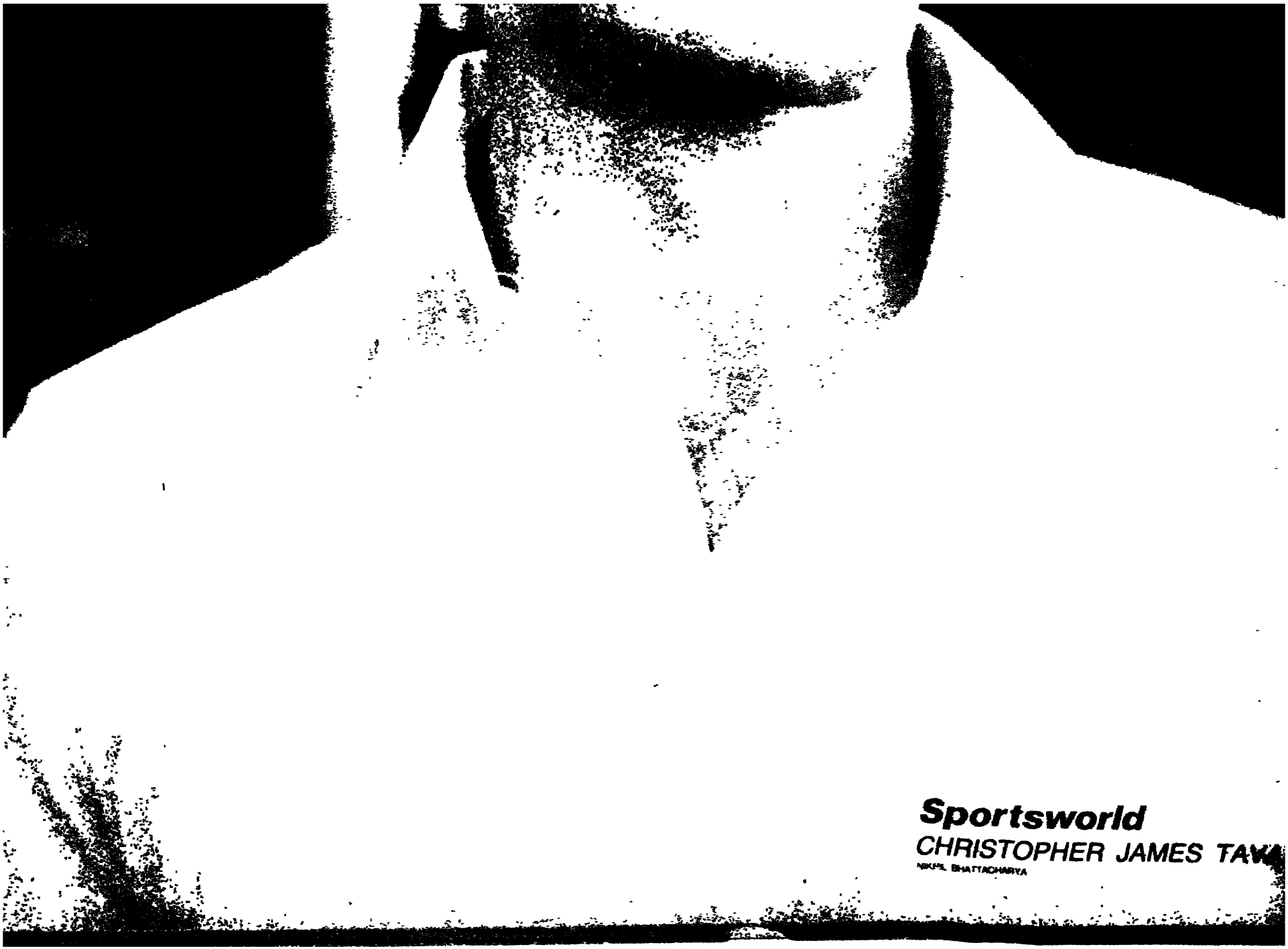


summer, and England looked askance at another left arm spinner, without finding a suitable replacement

However, the winter's rest did a world of good to the seasoned campaigner from Kent For the first time in twelve years, Underwood was reduced to listening to "ball by ball" -- from the West Indies - but it was just the layoff he needed The swelling bag of wickets in County games earned a recall in the twelve for the Old Trafford Test, but that is as far as he got For he was not even in the reserves for the final encounter at The Oval Once named in the twelve, Underwood did not expect to be asked to carry the drinks and "I am looking forward to bowling in partnership with John Emburey for the first time and it's comforting to know that England captain Mike Brearley believes in the theory that slow bowlers work better in tandem", he wrote in his column for one of the English dailies But despite his omission it was evident that he was very much under consideration for India, which made the announcement in September not in the least unexpected

"I have been branded a wet wicket wizard," he says. "Ever since I helped England square the Ashes at The Oval in 1968, it has been suggested that I can succeed only on rain affected pitches That's why I've had such immense pleasure taking eighty odd wickets under the new rules that stipulate fully covered wickets It's been an exciting challenge trying to outwit batsmen on much drier surfaces." As a challenge he is no doubt looking forward to in India Indeed, he is unlikely to concede many runs, and on turners with Emburey at the other end, could prove quite "deadly"




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SECOND INDO-PAK HOCKEY TEST

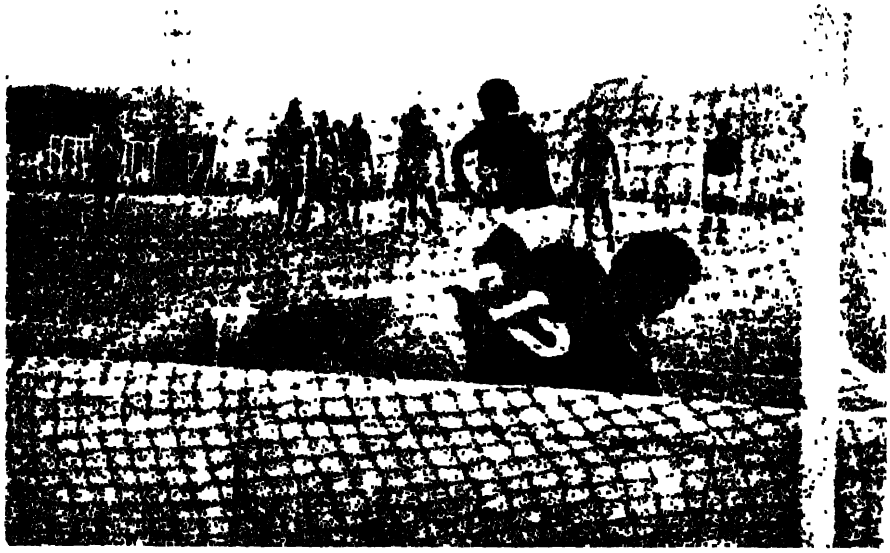
INDIA PLAYED BETTER

Former Pakistan captain, KHALID MAHMOOD reports on the second Indo-Pakistan Test played in Calcutta

THE defeat of India at the hands of Pakistan in Bombay was, I think, a blessing in disguise for India, for it afforded India an opportunity to assess the Pakistani team thoroughly and form an idea of its plus and minus points. However, in comparison with the first Test, the second in Calcutta was somewhat colourless. The match was played at a slow pace. Besides, I also did not see any concerted move from either side. Out of seven goals scored in this match, only one was a field goal which was scored by India. The most important incident of the match was the first goal scored by Mohammad Shahid, which was essentially the result of better understanding among the players and utilisation of opportunity.

Every Indian player played quite intelligently in this match. And tactically speaking, India dominated the Pakistani team throughout the match. India never allowed Pakistan to play at a rapid pace, rather established its control over the match by slowing down the pace. The Indian team very adroitly used the short pass and the long clearance to prevent Pakistan from playing in unison.

I am not at all satisfied with the performance of the Pakistan team. Its drawbacks in stopping the ball and combating the rival forwards were badly exposed in this match. The Pakistani forwards also could not play



Negi (Indian) wards off a penalty stroke conversion by Kalimullah

Akhtar Rasool clears from the goalline



their usual game. Most of them had a tendency of showing individual talent except Manzoor (Jr) who played tirelessly to penetrate the Indian defence either singly or in combination with others Pakistan wasted many chances of scoring goals including two penalty strokes Further, Pakistan could not exert any pressure, so to say, on the Indian team.

On the contrary, every member of the Indian squad played with great determination and courage India started playing with a determination to win and spared no pains throughout the match to translate this into practice I shall mention about some Indian players for their brilliant performances. In the first place, M R. Negi must be acclaimed for frustrating two penalty strokes of an experienced player like Kaleemullah Besides saving these two penalty strokes, he also showed his promptness whenever he got any inkling of danger Centre-half Ravinderpal and the two backs Surjit and Rajinder consolidated India's defence In the forward line, Fernandes rose to the pinnacle of his form in this match.

The only field goal of the match—scored by India—was the product of an excellent understanding amongst the Indian players Syed Ali, India's left-winger, stopped the ball, receiving from a free-hit, with absolute perfection and pushed it to the goal The Pakistani custodian Moinuddin stopped the ball, but Shahid, who was standing adjacent, made no mistake in scoring the goal This field goal was the first of its kind scored by India in the two Tests played in India

India's strategy of never allowing Pakistan to play as a team was praiseworthy. From the experience of the First Test India detected the strong points of Pakistan In order to prevent any gap being created in their defence, India did not allow the Pakistani skipper Akhtar Rasool to establish any contact with his forwards. The Indian centre-forward Sodhi kept a close vigil over him and the Pakistani left-inside, Hanif Khan The two Indian defenders, Rajinder and Somaiya, did not allow the Pakistani forwards to enjoy any liberty Another thing which charmed me was that, just as during attack the Indian defenders moved upwards to help their forwards, similarly the forwards came down to strengthen their defence in times of necessity

The decisions of both the umpires were sometimes controversial But as an ex-player, I shall never criticise them I think every player ought to abide by their decisions which are final There was no tension, so to say, in this match. The main reason for this was that no player was shown red or yellow card for the so-called dangerous play, except that yellow cards were sometimes shown to the players for their misdemeanour

Umpires' match

WHAT Calcuttans saw was disgusting, exasperating and frustrating. More than 30,000 congregated on the Mohun Bagan ground to see what was potentially the match of their life time—India playing Pakistan. Traditional style of hockey the sub-continent boasts of was impossible to display because of umpires Baghdadi and Satinder Pal Walia. The general concensus was that the match was a "tussle between umpires".

Former Pakistan's left-half Rafiq Lala, who played for his country in the 1952 Olympics at Helsinki and is currently an executive member and selector of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, wore a look of disgust about the appalling supervision. Asked about his reaction he said: "Both teams played very well but umpires Baghdadi and Mr Walia spoilt the game. The series was for the benefit of hockey for India and Pakistan. But what have we really derived from such umpiring? They have destroyed the match."

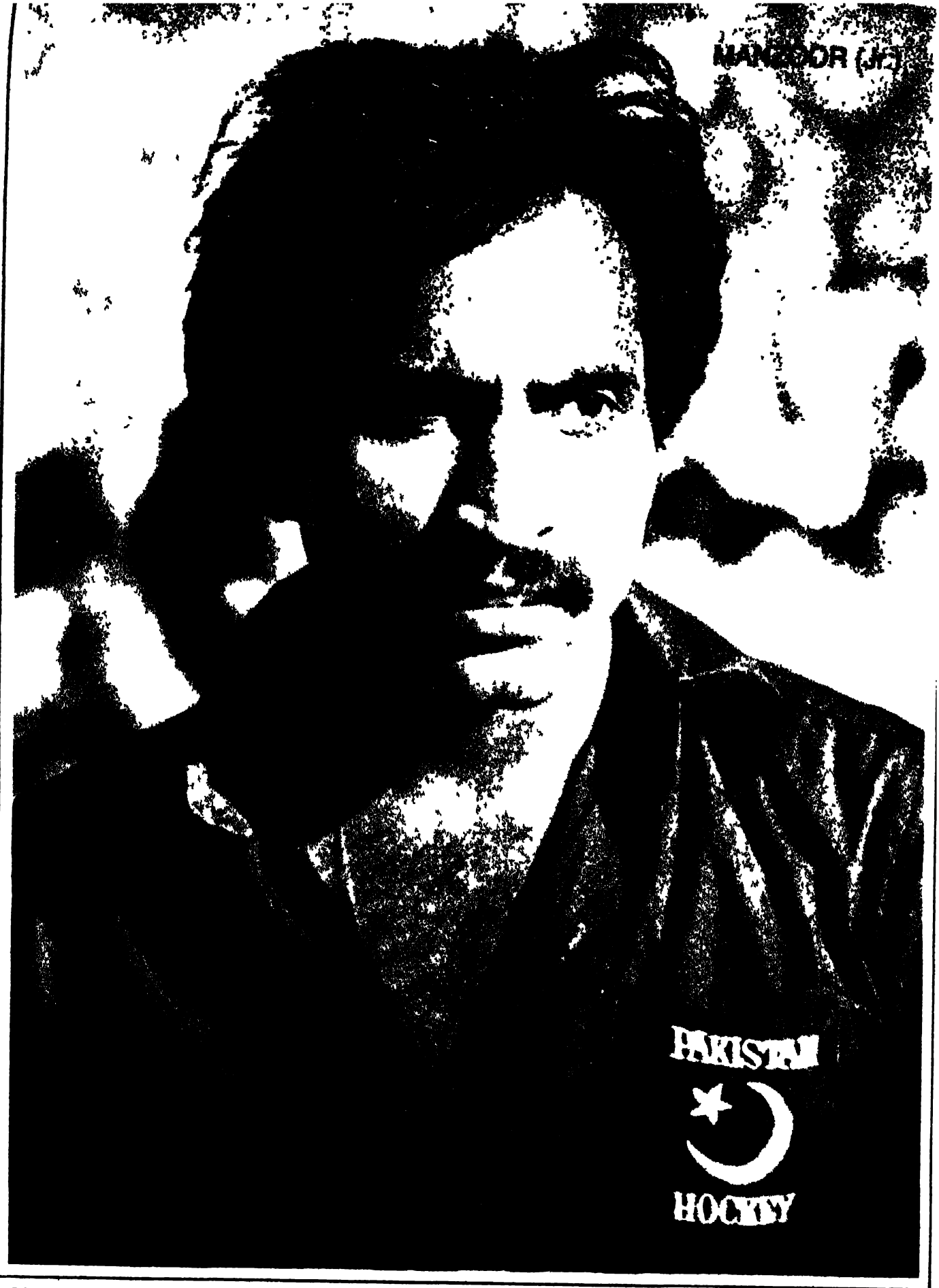
"The first half was rather slow paced but the later session was fast. It was good to see them. But the way the umpires gave wrong penalty strokes and deliberate infringements which did to a certain extent reduce the playing spirit of both sides. Of course, it is undoubtedly bad that players were seen charging the umpires when they blew intentionally. Now, who is to blame for this? Obviously, the whistlemen. Whatever the players of both teams tried to display was lost the moment the umpires 'took over the game".

"The victory at Bombay was nothing for us to relax about as we know that India was equally young and formidable as ours. Had the umpires been neutral, victory could have gone either way. I will also say the capacity crowd did not get their money's worth. Of course, I won't deny the fact that supervision at Bombay was all that encouraging. I sincerely hope that this thing does not occur in the next two Tests at Lahore and Karachi. I will also say that there will be no adverse effect in the matches on our soil. I will at the same time not deny the fact that both Baghdadi and Mr Walia are efficient umpires. Nevertheless, Baghdadi will anyway not be supervising either of the matches in Pakistan. As for the public there, one thing is sure: they like good hockey and no matter which side plays well the public is there to applaud it. However, I congratulate India for this victory," concluded Rafiq Lala.

A CORRESPONDENT

Qasim Zia slips one between the legs of Rajinder Singh Ravinderpal watches




MANZOOR (JR.)
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HOCKEY

All expectations belied

I have never seen this kind of farce, says GURBUX SINGH

WHILE watching the India-Pakistan Test match at the Mohun Bagan ground, memories of another one, seen about 20 years ago, surfaced in my mind It was the last match of a Test series during our tour of New Zealand, and was played at Auckland. The umpires took it upon themselves to decide the fate of the match and we were beaten by a last-minute penalty stroke.

I have witnessed many such instances of prejudiced umpiring, especially in Europe where it has been plaguing the game for a long time. But what happened during this much-awaited Test match between the two giants of world hockey was something unprecedented, at least so far as my experience is concerned

I have played many international matches for India for eight long years at a stretch: four among them were against Pakistan. But never have I witnessed 'such poor and ridiculous umpiring.

True, India drew level with Pakistan by winning this encounter, but it was only at the cost of the very purpose for which this series was organised And the saddest aspect was that both the teams could have benefited from this series, especially in view of the forthcoming World Cup which is to be held at Bombay.

Frankly speaking, the match was played only for 35 minutes The rest was nothing but an ugly tug-of-war between each umpire who seemed dead set on favouring the team from his own country as if the match had to be won by hook or crook.

Green and yellow cards were shown in total disregard of the rules which provide for such steps to be taken Naturally, on many occasions, the result was heavy punishment for minor offence Even the players of the two teams seemed aware that they could get away scot-free in the territories governed by their countries' umpires.

What will these players resort to when they play in the World Cup at Bombay where the matches will be conducted by neutral umpires? I think this match has caused tremendous psychological damage to the players of both the teams.

I did not see the first Test at Bombay, but learnt from newspapers that Surjit had complained against the umpiring of Baghdadi The Calcutta match was to be conducted by me, but it was not possible as I was too busy doing organisational duties to conduct such an important match. Now I think it was a blessing in disguise for me. Had I taken up the responsibility of conducting the match, I would surely have got involved in the mud-slinging. Moreover, the complaints, published in the newspapers against umpiring during the Bombay match, dampened my enthusiasm and I thought it would be wise to avoid getting involved in any such controversy

After the match was over, I was talking to Mahajan and Brigadier Atif All of us were of the opinion that neutral umpires should be given the responsibility of conducting such tension-packed encounters In all likelihood, neutral umpires will be appointed for the remaining two Tests at Lahore and Karachi The Pakistani authorities have agreed on it, and Mr Mahajan is trying to bring umpires

Hanif (10) argues with umpire Walia With him is Manzoor(sr), while coach Zakauddin gestures to his players to leave the field



Co-operation lacking

As it is, the Bengal Hockey Association is crippled by dire financial stringency. Whatever plans it has for the betterment of the sport have been stalled. So, the BHA—pioneers of Indian hockey—have had to take a back seat while other State associations have forged ahead. Indian Hockey Federation president Inder Mohan Mahajan was kind enough to allot the second hockey 'Test' against Pakistan to Calcutta, waving aside Jullundur's initial claim.

The opportunity was a shot in the arm for the BHA to fill its empty coffers. But, after the match held on the Mohun Bagan ground, initial estimates showed that the association could profit by about a lakh of ruppes or less. This will be the nett gain after all expenses on board and lodging and the air fare for both teams—from Bombay to Calcutta to Delhi—have been met and a guarantee fee of Rs. 2.5 lakh paid to the IHF. The BHA—which got the only chance of building its resources—could have at least trebled its profits had the Cricket Association of Bengal cooperated by letting out a portion of the Eden Gardens, so that many more could have witnessed the match. But the powers that be in the CAB were most uncooperative and blankly refused permission.

It is interesting to note that the Bombay Cricket Association lent out the Wankhede Stadium to the Bombay Hockey Association—for the first hockey 'Test'—just six days prior to the first cricket Test between India and the MCC. Why couldn't the CAB do the same, as it still had more then a month to prepare for the fourth Test? No wonder the Bombay Hockey Association is more prosperous than its poor Bengal counterpartt. It is learnt that the BHA had planned the match at the Gardens in such a way that the pitch being prepared for the fourth Test would in no way be encroached on. But then, who cares for the development of sport in Calcutta?

The police too failed to cooperate with newsmen who sought the opinions of both captains Akhtar Rasool and Surjit Singh after the match. The police personnel manning the gates that led on to the ground literally ignored the Press. But the helpless reporters saw a ray of hope when a self-professed sports-loving State Minister appeared on the scene. Surprisingly, he too avoided them leaving a bad taste in the mouth.

SUBHASH SARCAR



Gurmail successfully converts a stroke past Chisti

from Singapore and Malaysia. Of course, Hussain Bakshi is going to Pakistan as the official Indian umpire

There is hardly any doubt that the Calcutta match was really full of incidents. The Pakistan team was, at one stage, about to leave the ground in protest against a decision of umpire Satinder Pal Walia. I ran to the players to placate and persuade them to continue to play In 1962, in a similar incident the Pakistani side left the ground during their tour of Kenya. The Pakistani side returned home leaving the tour unfinished At the Munich Olympics too, Pakistan got into trouble and had 13 of its players suspended. With the memories of these incidents flashing upon my mind, I became a bit nervous.

Five of the former Pakistani players—Atif, Khalid, Jamauddin, Munir Dar and Anwar had played with me at one time or other. I pacified them after much persuasion Thank God, wisdom prevailed and nothing really untoward took place here

But I believe that Satinder's decision of awarding a penalty stroke to India was really well-judged and justifiable without a shred of doubt The ball hit the stick of a Pakistan player and then touched his leg

Surjit Singh bear-hugs Shahid after the latter scored the first goal



After the match Syed Ali complained that Pakistan's Akhtar Rosool took the stroke for their third goal from outside the striking circle. But he thought it futile to challenge the umpire In fact, there was no end to such complaints and counter-complaints

Undoubtedly, India dominated the scene throughtout The two wing-forwards moved very fast But the best player on the Indian side was Rajinder Singh Only once did he make a mistake which cost his team the first goal Rajinder almost immobilised Hanif Khan, denying the Calcutta crowd the opportunity to witness how dangerous he could be

Another Indian player who deserved special mention and praise was goal-keeper Negi Apart from blocking the two penalty strokes, he also saved two dangerous hits by the Pakistani players Fernandes and Shahid also played well. Pakistan's Munjoor Jr was adjudged the 'man of the match' and undoubtedly, the decision was correct

I could not figure out why Pakistan kept to the right flank throughout the first half, while Sanaullah was seen standing like a spectator on the left

Now, the question haunting every mind is how India will fare in the World Cup There is little doubt about India's strength which it has increased considerably over the last few years. What it needs now is tightening the half line, and, if successful in doing it, India will emerge one of the most powerful teams in the world

Moreover, they will be enjoying the added advantage of playing on home ground If India can win the cup, I will be very happy If they fail, my next choice will be Pakistan If Shamiullah plays for them, the team will be even more powerful But what we have to keep in mind is that Pakistan will not be the only adversary of India, there will be others—Australia, Holland, and West Germany

Pics Debi Prasad Sinha

Cause for cheer

WHEN the balance sheet of the two hockey Tests between India and Pakistan at Bombay and Calcutta is prepared, much of the red markings will be on the column for umpiring standards. Much has been said and written on this aspect but in real hockey terms, India may have reason to begin their World Cup campaign on December 29 on a fairly confident note In Bombay, India were outpointed 3-5 but it must be said that the 4-3 verdict in India's favour at Calcutta did not do full justice to India's good performance. If the first half—the only time a fair battle took place before degenerating into a farce—was indication of the stuff the present Indian outfit is capable of, then there is cause for cheer among hockey lovers in this country This is especially so against India's good show on the tour of the USSR and the Continent in August-September.

After watching the Bombay Test on TV and the Calcutta Test at the Mohun Bagan ground, one is inclined to believe that there is little to choose—all told—between the two greatest rivals in the sub-continent. Still, there are loose ends to be tied up, frayed edges that need to be ironed out and things like that. Let's strip down the Indian team for a dekko

Mir Ranjan Negi in the Indian goal acquitted himself well. The best asset of this youngster is his temperament A, recent graduate from the junior ranks, Negi obviously was 'on trial'. At Calcutta, he pulled off two penalty stroke saves although, just to put it in proper perspective, it must be remembered that on both those occasions, Kalimullah unimaginatively attacked Negi's well-covered first angle on his natural right side. Nevertheless, a stroke is a stroke and one feels that whatever else may fail Negi, his confidence in himself will not A good sign in itself

Surjit Singh's brief second spell in the wilderness, beginning mid-1980 and ending in the middle of this year, has not robbed him one bit of his old game One suspects that the coveted mantle of captaincy has put an added zip in his movements and enthusiasm for hardwork! In Rajinder Singh Surjit has an excellent fellow full-back Interestingly, Pakistan's full-back line was manned by an identical blend of youth and experience—the "old reliable" Manzur-ul-Hassan and the wet behind the-ears Qasim Zia. Zia is obviously rated very high in his country and it is left to be seen whether he will make the first XI in Pakistan's Bombay World Cup matches

From what one saw of the visitors' display in Bombay and Calcutta, one region where they were clearly superior to India was the half-line. A pivot like skipper Akhtar Rasool, who has seen action in all Pakistan's international engagements since the first World Cup at Barcelona in 1971, made a lot of difference between the two teams, reminding one of Ajitpal Singh during his peak in the mid-Seventies Ravinderpal, the present incumbent, did extremely well at Calcutta and one considers this the most reassuring sign for Indian hockey The search for an attacking centre-half in the Ajitpal mould is obviously over. Young Sommaya from Bombay has come of age as a fine right-half and the way he kept the crack forward Hanif, in the main, on a tight leash was remarkable. Which brings one to the slot which is probably giving coach Harmik Singh his biggest headache—the left-half. Experimenting with Gurmail has not really had the desired effect. One hopes that Harmik will make bold and try out the talented young Sujit Kumar, even if it means pitchforking Sujit over the head of the more experienced other left-half in the team—Onkar

In the Indian front line, Syed Ali stuck out like a sore thumb and the man he replaced, the injured Zaffar Iqbal, was awfully missed. Most of the Indian raids were carried out on the right with Merwyn Fernandes and Kaushik combining very well. Surinder Singh Sodhi did not seem at his best as the spearhead at Calcutta but given the limitations of stock available for that position, this former inside-forward will have to be persisted with. In any case, both the present schemers—Mohammed Shahid and Merwyn Fernandes— are too good to be replaced at the moment. Individually, these two players can comfortably be bracketed in the same class as their Pakistan opposite numbers Hanif and Manzur Jr I'm afraid the same cannot be said of the other three forwards. Also, what mainly gives the Pakistan attack the edge is the manner in which they cohere as a unit. And that's saying quite a lot, isn't it?

ASHOK KAMATH, Calcutta



Umpire Satinder Pal Walia warns Hanif (10) while the rest of the Pakistan team argue

Comments

After the eleventh Asian Basketball Confederation Championship for men, SARAJIT DEB spoke to some of the coaches of the top teams

MIAO (Secretary of the Chinese Basketball Association): I am not quite satisfied with the performance of the team in this championship. One of the reasons is that we failed to play as a co-ordinated unit in some of the matches. Winning or losing does not make much of a difference to us but the main thing is we must strive to play better in each championship In this respect, we failed here at Calcutta. Some of the members of the team were not fit and this sort worked against team-work. We might send a team to Columbia for the World Cup but in that championship we will have to play much better if we want to put up a fight If we lose a game after playing well, after the players have employed the tactics that have been taught to them, I think we should not have any reasons to complain We will know that we have lost to a better team But if we play badly and lose or even win, we will be sad Because then something must be done for the team I know we did not do too well in the championship but these things will have to be worked out when we go back to our country and see that everything goes off well in the future championships We had an advantage in having two giant players in Ma Zhanzu (4) and Mu Tiezhe (15) and they are popular all over the continent I think they were able to provide some entertainment to the basketball-loving people of this city This is a very popular game in China Children take to it at the age of 10/11 The best ones from the primary schools are then sent to spare-time schools, where they are geared for basketball and entrusted in the hands of a coach Let us see We hope we will [illegible] glory to the country

PARK HAN [illegible] (Coach of the Korean team): I am satisfied with the performance of my team. It is true that we have improved our rankings in the championship and for that we think we are lucky We played well and got the results But sometimes, in spite of playing well, the team does not get the results At least that did not happen in this championship This is a younger side from the one which participated in the 1979 championship and this result will definitely boost the morale of the players and will help us in the future In fact, basketball is the third popular game in the country after baseball and soccer and this result might help it to improve further

SHINUIZU YOSHAIKI (Head coach of Japan): The team that came to participate in this championship did not have four main players of last year They were the most important players in the team, two of them being shooters They were, in fact, the main point-getters of the team. We did not have sufficient time to find their replacements In addition, one of the players was the tallest man in Japan, which helped us to get a lot of points. In my team, three players stood out—Hurihiko (5), Yasutaka (6) and Nubuki (8). In the Korean team, two players were exceptional: Kim Dong Kwang (7) and Lee Chung Hee (8) In the championships, another team that has impressed me is China They have improved from the last championship and three players were really too good to be true He Juhua (5), Guo Yong Lin (7) and Mu Tiezhe (15). In our country, there are nearly 200 thousand basketball players, such is the popularity of the game in the country. Our players start playing at the age of 12 at junior high school level and then they proceed to higher school, university and then plays for the company's team Only one player from this squad, Yasuaki (15), is a student of the university but the others play for some commercial house or other. But in our country, no player is allowed to go out of his office just because he is a player. If one wants to continue playing, one will have to take to it after office hours So, one can gauge the popularity of the game in the country.

FILONEMO PUMAREU (Coach of the Philippines team): I think we did fairly well in this championship. This is also the first time that we beat Malaysia and in that way this is a unique championship for us. And I think we have improved our performance in this championship. The two teams which have really impressed me are Korea and China. The outstanding Korean players were Lin Jung Myune (4), Kim Dong Kwang (7) and Lee Chung Hee (8), and for China He Juhua (5), Guo Yong Lin (7) and Feng Wei (11) As far as my team was concerned, Francisco Lim (4), A. Esguerra (6), F Lauchengco (7), and Jose Yango (9) played well in the championship I think India has improved considerably in the past two years Maybe they had the added advantage of playing under known conditions They did put up a great fight against Japan.

SURGEN STRAILOV (Coach of the Indian team): *I think my team played well in the championship. We had a close match against the Japanese team in the group league and then fought hard in all the matches in the championship round. From the Indian ranks, I think three players—Om Prakash, Ajmer Singh and N. Amarnath—played well throughout the tournament. Hanuman Singh, though a very good player, did not live up to his potential. But I must add that I had very little practice time with this team, five weeks to be precise. This is a good side and given sufficient scope and training facilities, I think India can come up well in basketball But for that the players will have to work very hard.*

WEE CHEONG PHORO (Coach of Malaysia): I am definitely satisfied with the performance of my team in this championship. Though we were fourth in 1977 and seventh in the last championship, we have improved in this tournament We had two very close matches, against India, which we lost by 16 points and then against Philippines by four points Both these matches were for the championship and if we had a favourable result in any one of these matches, we could have been placed fourth In fact, we have decided on a new plan of action for the future After talking with the officials of China and Korea it is imperative that we start our coaching from an early age. We plan to spot youth and train them for the next five years For this, we want to conduct a tournament for youth between December 20 and 30 From this tournament we intend selecting a set of players who will be kept on a yearly basis and they will play in a number of tournaments We'd like to produce a strong team and want to see that there is no dearth of talent when some of the senior players retire This programme is not only for the boys but also for the girls. The boys should be above six feet, so that they will not face the disadvantage of height. This programme will be the first of its kind in our country. By playing in this championship, we have developed this idea and let us hope that we are able to build a strong team If that happens, this championship will always be a memorable one for us.

At present, the boys start playing at the school level, at about the age of 10, for the under-12 school (national) level championship This is followed by under-15, under-18 tournaments for both boys and girls, but the stress is on the boys They then undergo selection trials to represent the respective States in the under-19 national championships. This is held simultaneously for boys and girls during the April holidays. And from this championship, the team is selected to represent the country in the Asian Youth Championship. The national championships are held late in the year and besides all these championships, there is that commercial championship, sponsored by the commercial houses and also by

Fallen Filipinos



Ft. Finlasa (15) of Philippines about to basket against India in the ABC championship. Will he join the pro league?

have been easy meat. This, at a rough estimate is about the 10th team of our country. After this championship, I believe at least five players will join the professional league. It has become a way of life in the Philippines. Only for this reason, we have no chance of winning the Asian Games in 1982."

Recently, at Taipei where the Dr William Jones Cup tournament was held, the team toyed with the Koreans and beat them by a huge margin of 50 points. Most of the players who comprised the team are half Filipinos who have learnt their game in the United States. They are a dedicated lot and are very keen to represent the country of their adoption. But FIBA rules specifically say that a player must have to wait for three years after being naturalised to play for the country of their adoption.

Of course, the payment which a European or an American professional gets is much more than what a Filipino earns. Still, a professional player finds himself at a higher status than that of an amateur. Crispa and Toyota are the main rivals in the professional basketball league. U-Tex, Wranglers, Tanduay and the Royal Tru Orange are the other popular teams. Some of them have hired the services of some American stars to strengthen their teams. In fact, once our own Khushi Ram was also given an offer to join them as a pro but he flatly refused.

The nature of payments vary a lot. The top players can earn up to $ 20,000 (close to Rs 1,60,000) a year; and it comes down to $ 500 (close to Rs 4,000) for the ones who just enter the elite society. There are approximately 15 players in each team and each side is aided by a professional coach. Their payments are also quite high, most of them getting in the vicinity of $ 2,000 a month. But their span is not very long and so they go by the policy: make hay while the sun shines.

The Philippines delegate at the Calcutta Asian Basketball Congress had taken up the issue of a player being allowed to play only after three years of naturalisation. They have asked the Confederation to request the FIBA to withdraw the regulation and if that is not possible to at least make it less stiff. Once that is done, the Philippines can hope to regain its top place in Asia with the help of the migrants. The American influx specially in the sphere of coaching has started showing its impact and soon we may hear more about the once-famous Philippines.

SARAJIT DEB and
PRAKASH BHANDARI

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the national bodies But from now on, we want to centralise the whole national programme

Amongst the Asian countries, China, Korea and Japan are class by themselves. But in the World Cup, China was placed very unfavourably, that can help one to judge the standard of basketball in the world scene In my team Loh Ban Hon (6) is only 21 and is the most improved player in the squad In the Korean team, there are three marvellous players in Kim Dong, Lee Chung and Lee Myun. They are great players and their speed has to be seen to be believed Their passing is accurate and are always quick and snappy Their spot jumping and shooting are good. In the Japan team, Nubuki (8) impressed me a lot The China team is a unit, a complete team and is the dream of any coach to make that kind of a team Their He Juhua (5) is just a six-footer but the way he jumps, from a distance it looks like he is a seven-footer I do not want to name individual players in the team simply because it is a unit.

MANNOP MANEC (Coach of the Thailand team): We played fairly well in the championship, especially Shai Yan (15), Jesde You (14), Walasai (4) and Pai Wit (13) Korea was the best team in view. They have a tremendous ability to score from any angle and their two players Kim (7) and Lee Chung (8) are exceptional players As far as my team was concerned, we had eight players who were in the national youth side last year, so you can very well judge for yourself how inexperienced the team was Considering this I think we did fairly well in this championship. But we are yet to produce players of the calibre of Kim of Korea. He is all-court player and is a tremendous mover This helps the team so much He is a natural player, the like of which we do not have In fact, I think no other country has a player of that calibre

HASAN ZULA GHORI (Coach of the Iran team): I think we played well in the championship We fought hard in all the matches and the manner in which we beat Pakistan in the group league was indeed creditable Then in the match against Thailand, which we ultimately lost, it went to extra time If we had won that match, we could have been seventh

NATIONAL GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

A show with casualties galore

THE fact that the 'milestone is miles away' was underlined once again when the Indian gymnasts put up a lack-lustre show during the National Gymnastic championships, held at the NSNIS, Patiala. The dismounts were wavy and vibrating, the movements sans rhythm, with grace and harmony being the chief casualties The resultant 'acrobatic' exercises led to a number of falls Despite the safety facilities available at the NIS, the gymnasts could be heard shrieking with pain after the uncontrolled falls. Even the helpers could not be of much help on most of the occasions

One of the gymnasts injured his collar bone and was taken to the local Rajendra Hospital He was declared out of danger only after 72 hours of intensive care. Things assumed alarming proportions when the under-18 gymnast, Mohinder Singh Chhabra, in an attempt to perform double somersaults on the Roman rings, landed dangerously on the cushion pits below and broke the axis vertebra of his spinal cord The third all-round best gymnast in his section in the last Nationals at Calcutta, Mohinder was removed to Rajendra Hospital where he succumbed to his injury the next day

The disappointment further deepened as most of the gymnasts failed miserably to attune themselves to the Western classical music during the floor exercises. The mat was 'alienated' off and on and the gymnasts, performing without proper kit, put up a desperate show Many of the aspirants were seen doing it without even sport shoes, and as a result suffered sprains and pulls

The organisers complained that infighting among the bigwigs of the NIS stood in their way to making better arrangements for the championships Things were further bedevilled by the forswearing of duties by the referees and judges. They pleaded for 'fair' remuneration for the hard efforts they were putting in to judge the gymnasts from morning to evening everyday As a result of their boycott the competition in the apparatus section could not be held. The organisers, on the other hand, stated that the protestors were given much more than the amount they were informed of beforehand and that was permissible under the established rules. The G.F I. executive endorsed the organisers' statement.

Achievement-wise the West Bengal gymnasts dominated the proceedings Barring the apparatus championships for men and under-20 girls, the Bengali gymnasts finished much ahead of their adversaries from the 15 other States and Union Territories While the Maharashtra under-20 girl gymnasts gave a superb performance, to check Bengal's progress towards the ambitious target, gymnasts from Tripura and Railways dominated the scene in the men's section The Tripura gymnasts captured three titles in the men's section of the team championships West Bengal accounted for two titles (boys' under-20 and girls' under-14), while Punjab (senior women), Maharashtra (girls' under-20) and Haryana (girls' under-18) walked away with one title each

West Bengal, however, performed creditably to head the medal tally with two golds, four silvers (girls' under-20, girls' under-18, boys' under-18 and senior women) and one bronze medal (boys' under-14) Punjab followed them in the running for the honours. The State gymnasts topped the senior women category and were third in the boys' under-20, girls' under-20, girls' under-18 and boys' under-18 sections Haryana won three medals—one gold (girls' under-18) one silver (girls' under-14) and one bronze (senior women). Maharashtra grabbed one gold (girls' under-20) and one silver (boys' under-14), Chandigarh clinched two silvers (boys' under-20 and senior men); Services won one bronze (senior men) and Gujarat, with one bronze, (girls' under-14) finished last

West Bengal also excelled in the individual best gymnasts' championships Out of the total eight golds, they won four (Chaitali Khan in girls' under-14, Pradip Saha in boys' under-18, Anjan Dass in boys' under-20 and Anju De in the senior women's section) Jyotsna Das won the only silver for her State Maharashtra won two gold two silver and two bronze medals; Tripura got one gold, three silver and two bronze medals, Haryana struck one gold, one silver and one bronze, Chandigarh captured one silver and one bronze and Punjab two bronze medals.

Only Daxa Patel of Gujarat emerged as the second best apparatus champion in the girls' under-20 section.

GURMEET MAAN,

Patiala

Anjan Dass (right), another gold winner for West Bengal



An unimpressive show

THE third final athletic test, held recently at Ludhiana, in which five countries—Soviet Union, West Germany, Japan, South Korea and India—took part, proved a farce as there was hardly any contest for the honours For instance, in the long jump event the sizeable Sunday crowd had to watch only two players competing with Russia's Kostiouning Taniana emerging the winner

To some extent it was for this lack of keen competition that the Indian athletes notched up ten victories out of the 16 events of the test. The foreign starts seemed like club level players, while on the Indian side Premchandran in the men's group and P T Usha in the women's stole the show with brilliant performances Running with her rhythmic stride and a natural flow, Usha appeared to be a born sprinter and struck a double In the 100m she dashed to glory in 11 9 seconds, running clearly ahead of the other competitors In the 200m, she improved upon her Pune performance by 3 seconds to win the event in 24.6 seconds Mishiba finished runners-up

In the women's long jump event, both Tes Moto of Japan and Kostiouning Taniana of USSR looked substandard. However, Taniana won with a 5 5m jump.



SUNIL MALHOTRA

Shiny Abraham

It was the shot put event which only provided a good show with international Bahadur Singh pulling it off with a score of 17 27 metres Second to him was Vijay Bahadur, a towering figure, who reminds one of Parveen Kumar, but surely not as impressing as him

Another impressive performance was put up by Balwinder Singh who stood third with a score of 16.82 metres. Despite his short height, he is showing great promise and should be groomed as a future shot putter for the country He has a flashy style and turning slowly on his first step he throws the ball with medium trajectory in a swift action having his feet grounded firmly

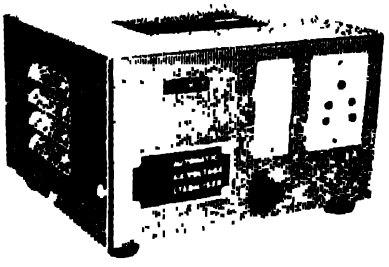
India's Satnam Singh looked certain winner in the 1500m, right from the beginning and eventually won the event in 3 minutes and 57 4 seconds. Shiny Abraham and Elena of USSR won the 800m and 1500m races respectively

HARBANS SINGH VIRDI,
Jullundur

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Obituary

A chapter comes to an end

MUDAR PATHERYA

THE base act of Lillee digging in at Javed Miandad with his shoe at Perth and the death of Jack Fingleton at Sydney may be absorbed by some in two distinct perspectives. But I am disinclined to agree. Lillee adopted a posture so reminiscent of Randolph Turpin and the like while Miandad waved his bat about like a diligent policeman applying his truncheon to the head of an offender That happened on November 16 Four days after cricket's worst exhibition of sportsmanship, the 73-year-old former opener for Australia and doyen of cricket writers suffered a heart attack and died another two days later Probably he could take no more

Had Fingleton been sitting in the Press Box in the company of his old 'cobbers' watching the incident he would have immediately, I think, dashed off a cable to his editor asking if he was actually paid to watch such nonsense He would have, I am sure, written a lengthy piece on the virtues of the game, on Trumper, Macarteney and the good old days and how once Hobbs allowed himself to be bowled a ball after he was out and never knew it Fingleton was a traditionalist to the marrow and according to Peebles, 'a man of strong character', complaining every now and then of the changes that cricket was being subjected to and that too by an entrepreneur On such occasions his columns were a delight to read, caustically worded but seldom deviating from the truths of the world He would have appealed to the highs of Australian cricket to bring out the belt and do the worst to Lillee's bottom

Fingleton was no less courageous a writer as he was a batsman In his playing days he took on the mighty Don himself when he thought Bradman had left himself open somewhere Highly suicidal this, considering the amount of influence Bradman wielded over the selectors and the eleven under him

Bradman himself noted in his book *Farewell to Cricket* "Jack Fingleton, a contemporary player, cast very grave reflections on my tactics. It may be well to remind readers that his last three Test innings against Jardine's men yielded 1.0 and 0 whereupon he was dropped from the Australian team. In the same three innings I scored 177 runs at an average of 88 5. These figures hardly give Fingleton any authority to criticise my methods " Much later he referred to a fellow, "who apparently made a special study of my alleged weaknesses." One needn't guess as to who it was!

'Fingo' was born on April 28, 1908. He grew up in an atmosphere. basically of cricket, and had achieved a good degree of proficiency while still young. He played his Sydney Club Cricket for Waverly, a team which at the same time included Herbie Collins, Gregory, Kippax, Carter and Hunter Hendry, all of whom played for Australia Macarteney, of course, he played with much later when the great man used to come down to play with the Colts

"I opened once with Macarteney and as we walked out he said, 'Keep your eyes open for the first ball, son I'll take strike'," wrote Fingleton.

"I thought that there would be a quick, stolen single and I was doubly anxious to respond to the Great Man's call But the first ball came hurtling back like a meteorite and was crashing against the fence while the umpire, the bowler and I were prone to the grass as if in an air-raid. I picked myself up and met Charlie in the middle

"It's always a good idea," he confided, "to aim the first ball right at the bowler's head

Fingleton's chance to make the Australian side came after three Tests as twelfth man against Cameron's South Africans in 1931-32 Ponsford took ill and suddenly the door was open Fingleton made 40, crossed only by Kippax's 42 in a match that produced just 234 runs and 10 zeroes!

Jack Fingleton survived to tell the tale In 1935-36 he was chosen to tour South Africa where he enjoyed phenomenal success in Bradman's absence He began with 62 at Johannesburg in the second Test out of his side's 250 and in the second innings, when Australia was in hot pursuit of 339 to win Fingleton scored 40 runs and assisted in a reliable way the sparkling genius of McCabe who got 189 Unfortunately, dark clouds gathered, the rival captain appealed successfully against the light and the match had to be abandoned.

At Cape Town, in the following Test, Fingleton struck 112, following it with 108 at Johannesburg At Durban he completed the trio with 118, all in succession and Australia winning by an innings on each occasion Fingleton returned home with 478 runs to his name and an average of 79 66, the aggregate exceeded in the whole series by none, save A D Nourse junior

Fingleton got his chance once again, this time against a strong English bowling side under Gubby Allen in 1936-37 At Brisbane he monopolised the resistance and made exactly 100—his fourth hundred in succession and a record—out of an Australian score of 234 McCabe was the only other batsman to offer any kind of resistance and he scored only 51 The demon in the English bowling was clearly evident, they gunned Australia down for a mere 58 in the second innings and Bradman didn't even make a single!

The stylish Australian left-hander followed up with 73 at Sydney, topped only by McCabe and the Don after which he chalked up the fifth century of a brief career, at Melbourne. England lost the toss, Australia making 200 for 9 wickets declared The visitors were trapped on a 'gluepot' and could manage only a hard-wrought 76 But it later transpired that Allen had erred in his reasoning and declared much later than he should have The result was that the wicket improved and Australia hit up 564 leaving England 688 to get to win Bradman indulged in a typically businesslike 270 and Fingleton put in a personal 136, the two incepting a sixth wicket partnership of 346 runs, a record for any wicket in Australia at that time

At The Oval in 1938 the same two were injured and failed to bat for Australia England capitalised, hit up 903 for 7 wickets declared and won by an innings and 579 runs!

It is a debatable point whether we ought to remember Fingleton purely as a cricketer or as a writer For he was a man after the manner of A E. Knight, Bowes and Peebles with an extraordinary capacity for conveying exactly in print the strong sentiments that so often suffused him After his playing days were over he became a political journalist living at Canberra and a personal friend of Sir Robert Menzies, occupational rivals in the moulding of public opinion.

He put across some wonderful books, all entertaining reading He wrote—*Brightly Fades the Don, The Immortal Victor Trumper, Four Chukkas to Australia, Cricket Crisis, Brown and Company* and more recently his autobiography *Batting from Memory* His *Masters of Cricket* has one particularly interesting essay on Trumper, reproduced in many anthologies An emotional piece of cricket literature. You can never tire of reading it Certainly Fingleton never tired of writing about him

I can well imagine Fingleton seeking out Trumper, basking alone in the soft sunshine on the Elysian swards up there

"Excuse me, sir, they call me Fingleton I heard about you from my parents and the rest of them A tragedy that you were before my time".

"You mean that they still remember me?"

"Of course, there are more books on you today than were in your own time. I myself wrote one consisting of 208 pages "

And thus goes on cricket's merry coversation into a mellow evening, of friends, days long gone and jolly togetherness

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Sportspeople

No recognition

IT was for his son that he took to the playground, not realising that he, too, could do wonders

This is exactly what has happened in the case of 47-year-old *Raj Kishan* of Haryana, a member of the Indian squad to the recently-concluded first Asian Veterans Athletics Meet at Singapore, and winner of a gold in the high jump and a bronze in the 200 m sprint

"I had had my go in 1953-54 when I took part in the Punjab University athletics meet. Of course, I did not win any position. I left studies and settled down in my village near Chandigarh But a couple of years back, I saw promise in my son, Ajay Kumar, then 12, and with intention to give him a few tips in High Jump, I myself entered the field In fact, it was the boy who persuaded the father to enter the qualifiers' race for the Hanover (West Germany) World Veteran Athletics Meet I did qualify, but failed to make the trip in 1979 for financial reasons", he said

This year, fresh from his Hissar success in the first Haryana Veteran Athletics Championships, Raj Kishan went to Hyderabad for the first All-India Veteran Athletics Championships and easily qualified for the High Jump and 200 m sprint for the first Asian Veterans Athletics Meet held in October last

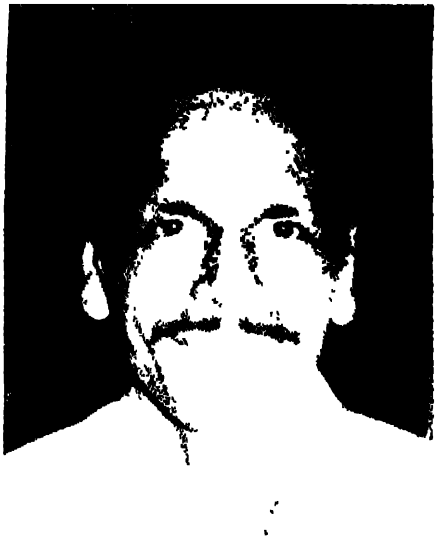
"But no more international competitions for me I am a poor man and cannot foot such a heavy bill The Singapore trip has cost me about Rs 10,000 without any return in terms of recognition or honour", the State colleague of 77-year old Gulab Singh said.

From soccer to basketball

DURING the Asian Basketball Championship at Calcutta, it was a pleasant surprise to see former Olympian footballer (goalkeeper) *S S Narayan* of Maharashtra serving basketball as an official Narayan, who did duty for the Indian football team at the Melbourne and Rome Olympics, was an excellent hoopster too and represented Bombay in the National Basketball championships from 1953 to 1959 During the 1955 Nationals at Calcutta, Narayan even emerged the top scorer

He played basketball to keep himself fit Height was to his advantage and the team, Indian Gymkhana, for which he played, was Bombay's top outfit Narayan was basically a shooter and with his training and skill as a goalkeeper, he found it easy to collect the rebounds

Narayan, who is a member of the Maharashtra Basketball Association selection committee, now coaches young players at Indian Gymkhana in



Bombay. He feels that his experience as a footballer was never properly utilised That is why he switched over to basketball The 47-year-old ex-Olympian, who retired from the game after the 1963 Nationals, thinks that the standard of soccer in Asia has improved but India has failed to keep pace with her neighbours because her players could not adapt themselves to the requirements of modern football

The missionary

THE scholarly-looking, broad-shouldered coach of the Sri Lanka team, *Glen Miller*, was not a sad man even when his side lost all the matches in the 11th Asian Basketball Confederation championship held recently at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta. A practical man, he said without any trace of emotion in his voice, "When we came to play in the tournament, we knew that we would be lucky if we were able to win even a single match. From that point of view, we have no reasons to complain"

This American still plays the game "because I find it very interesting" He has been in Sri Lanka for the last two-and-a half years and has recently taken up the assignment of training the Sri Lanka team as the national coach. "In fact, we had only 10 practice sessions before coming to this championship," he said. Before being sent to Sri Lanka, on a mission, by the churches, Glen Miller used to represent a Christian organisation called Sports Ambassadors and has toured 20 countries so far.

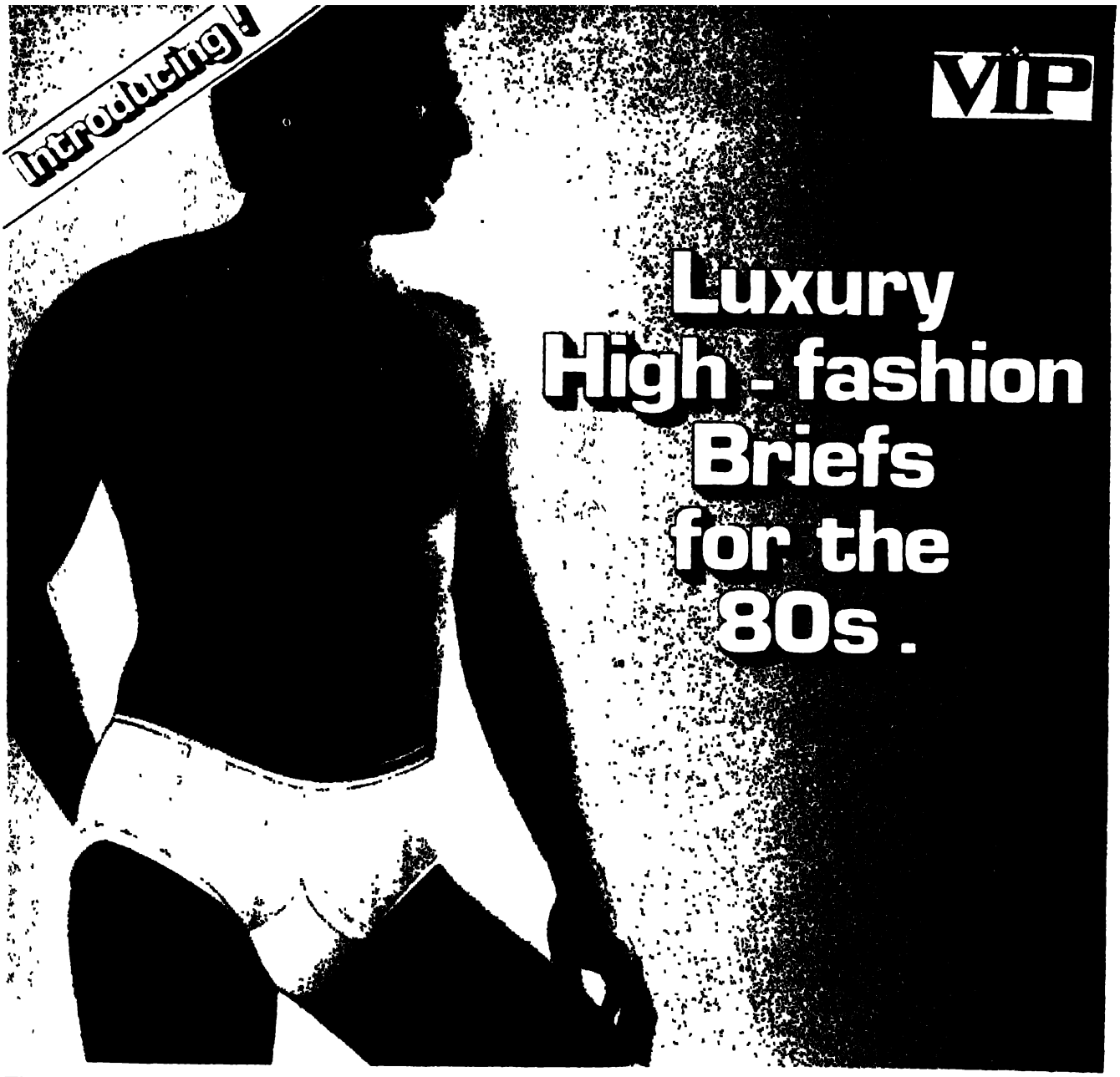
After he was sent to Sri Lanka, he started conducting Bible classes for the weaker sections of the Christian society. "Besides, there were youth basketball camps, clinics for both players and coaches. But, basically, it was travelling and preaching in the various churches of the country, who paid for my upkeep in Sri Lanka. Now, though I have been the national coach, still I do not accept any money from the Government, because it is against my principle", said Miller in a confident voice.

The game is not very popular in the country and that is why not many people come forward to play the game till now. "I knew what we would face in the championship here. We knew the opponents would be strong and we were not going to pose any challenge because the standard of the other teams was much higher than that of us. But we came here to gain experience. If the players do not get opportunities to play in such tournaments, they will not get the inspiration to continue with the game in future. That will have a bad effect on the game in the country and for that reason I insisted that they should come for this championship, no matter what the results be", said Glen Miller. "In these tournaments they get a chance to see other players in action. It might inspire them and they can learn a few tricks of the trade."

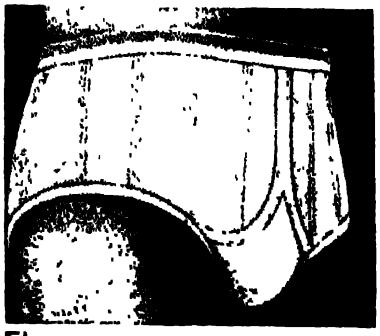
"In this championship, Korea impressed me, although I knew that if both teams played to their full potential, China was going to win But the shooting and ball control of the Koreans were absolutely superb. China had an added advantage in their size, but they also have good shooters and jumpers in their ranks. They play team game, which is essential. They know their role, their capability, efficiency and play accordingly, which is very important in basketball. As for the rest of the teams, I'm sorry to say that none impressed me"

Coming to the obvious topic—American basketball—Glen Miller said: "The Asians will have no chance against the professional teams of America. They are simply too good. Even when a player is seven feet tall, he is so fit physically and otherwise that he can jump an additional three fit, unlike the Chinese and Japanese seven footers, who are far from fit. The Asian teams can compare themselves with some of the university teams of America, but still I think they will lose if they have any occasion to meet them in future The American players are even faster than the Koreans (the fastest amongst the Asians). The shooting of the Koreans can be compared with those of any American teams, but they will hardly get any chance to shoot in an encounter against these professionals"

Coming back to Sri Lanka, he said: "Cricket, football, rugby and volleyball are very popular in our country. But there is not enough opportunity for basketball and there is in fact a dearth of coaches" The Minister of the churches is trying desperately to create enthusiasm. "There is lack of money, Sri Lanka being a very poor country. The people are short in stature and there is no positive aspect as far as basketball is concerned," he said. But he is hopeful and if more people come forward in the next 10-15 years, the situation will improve considerably

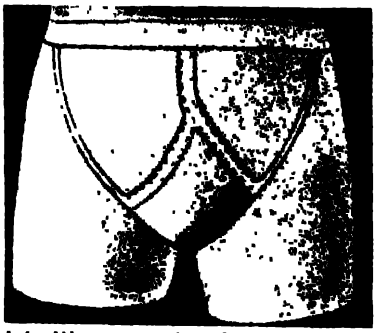


The One-Up



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The Frenchie



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is very French.
The Underwear
is VIP Frenchie.

News round-up

"Fraud" foursome win Dunlop Cup

CALCUTTA: Yet another Dunlop Cup tournament ended at the traditional venue, the Tollygunge Golf Club recently. The twelfth congregation of rabbits and tigers saw the same amount of fanfare, hilarity, keen competition and excitement as in the previous years. In fact, this biggest amateur golf carnival generates so much interest that the entire golfing fraternity in the country and to a certain extent abroad eagerly look forward to this meet.

From a small beginning this competition has now risen to great heights and has now come to be regarded as the biggest single course golf meet in the world—indeed an achievement of the sponsors and all those who played their parts diligently But this year there was an air of sadness about the competition as the Dunlop Cup committee chairman Jimmy Bain, who played an active role in this success story, played his final rounds before leaving the country forever.

As usual, the number of entries was high, totalling nearly 500 players, each playing 36 holes. The best three scores of a team in each round were taken into account, and the team with the lowest nett score wrested the attractive cup But, before going into the best results, one very unique feature of the tournament must be mentioned About one lakh strokes in a span of eight days were played on a single course It was something unprecedented in the annals of the game.

The scores tended to be high this year—and they have a charm of their own with all those leg-pulling and various facial expressions of the players at the shamiana. But there were good scores too. The "When-Time-Ran-Out"-talented Ranjit Nanda fired a nett 67 and snatched the best individual scratch prize, with nett 154; from his strong rival and Indian teammate for the Asian Pacific golf at the Old Course of the RCGC, Brandon D'Souza, on second card. Mrs Mary Malhotra, with 170, bagged the best ladies' individual prize "Watchout Frauds Are Back" ran home with the glittering Dunlop Cup with a nett 437. The winning team comprised Anil Sahgal, H. Singh, V. Varma and Tapan Das Anil Sahgal won a 'double' after he had snatched the Tollygunge Club Handicap Cup for the best individual nett score from Mrs Kanakura on second card. But the best individual nett score for the Ray Nairn Cup went to Miss Kavita Padgaonkar who notched up 137. If the "Fraud" quartet could win the title with the lowest score, the "T Off" too could annex the Wooden Spoon when the foursome went around the course driving with glory for a massive 590 The division awards were claimed by "The Apsoos" (nett 444-Div I), GDA Special (nett 439-Div.II), "ABBA" (441-Div. III) and "Zigzaggers" (461-Div. IV)

A CORRESPONDENT



'Watchout the Frauds'—winners of the 1981 Dunlop Cup

Umpires' exams held

PATNA. After a gap of three clear calendar years the Board of Control for Cricket in India recently held the all India cricket umpires' examination for the one-star Ranji panel and the two-star all-India panel in different centres For the Ranji panel, different affiliated state cricket bodies forwarded the names of experienced state panel umpires after a thorough screening test The senior Ranji panel umpires with the experience of umpiring in at least five Ranji trophy matches and three Board conducted matches became automatically eligible for the all-India panel examination.

Ten such senior state panel umpires from Bihar became eligible for the Ranji trophy panel examination, held at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, which was the only recognised examination centre for the East Zone

The last examination for the all-India and Ranji panels was held in 1978 and at that time as many as ten Bihar umpires appeared at the Ranji test It was really creditable for Bihar that as many as six out of ten candidates became successful in the written test and ultimately four of them were finally selected after viva, practical and medical examinations.

Before the examination of 1978 the Bihar Cricket Association arranged for comprehensive classes for the examinees under the able guidance of S R Bose, better known as Gora Bose, a senior all India panel umpire The three day study of the complicated cricket rules immensely helped the examinees at that time

Things have changed a lot since then and, in 1980 the 'New Code' of the cricket rules have been accepted by all the cricketing nations After the introduction of this 'New Code' almost all the state cricket bodies arranged special seminars for their umpires The Cricket Association of Bengal umpires were immensely benefited by the jubilee seminar, held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium earlier this year with senior India umpires like Mr Swarup Krishan, Mr Satyaji Rao Mr P R Punjabi, Mr Shambhu Pan, Mr Santosh Ganguly, Mr Samar Roy and Mr Sunil Banerjee participating as experts

The Board of Control for Cricket of India also held a seminar recently at Bombay for its umpires

But the Bihar Cricket Association, unfortunately, could not hold either intensive classes or, at least, a general seminar for the intending candidates for the Ranji panel

SAMIR SENGUPTA

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Test slow-coach set a 20- year record

The unenviable distinction of recording the slowest century in Test cricket belongs to a Pakistan player Mudassar Nazar, who as a 21-year-old took nine hours 17 minutes over 100 in a match against England This time "beat" by 12 minutes the previous record for slowest Test century, set 20 years earlier by a South African against Australia in Durban. Mudassar Nazar's laborious 100—he went on to 114—was compiled in front of home crowd in Lahore, in the first Test of the 1977-78 England-Pakistan series, in December, 1977 Son of former Test opener Nazar Mohammad, he was recording his maiden Test century (The match was drawn Pakistan 407 for 9 declared and 106 for 3, England 288)

The Springbok, whose record was beaten by the Pakistani, occupied the crease for nine hours 35 minutes of the 13 hours his side batted against Australia, after reaching 100 in nine hours and five minutes, he took his score to 105 the last five runs taking another half-hour

Wisden recorded "Although as a feat of endurance and concentration it was remarkable, it is doubtful whether South Africa benefited by it " The match was the third of a Test series won by Australia 3-0, with two drawn And to quote again from *Wisden* "South Africa went close to recording their first victory in their own country against Australia, but, although undoubtedly the better side in the match, they contributed to their own failure to win by surprising and unnecessarily slow batting "

Australia spent the entire first day scoring 155 for six and next morning the last four wickets fell in 28 balls for the addition of eight runs By the close of the second day South Africa were only 13 behind with eight wickets left

But on the third day the Springboks showed no inclination to hurry and, although losing only three wickets, added only 168 On the morning of the fourth day the last five wickets fell in 100 minutes for 66, South Africa ending with 384—221 ahead Australia set out to play for a draw so the entire match brought no relief from slow scoring

Ninety-two of the arrears were wiped out before a wicket fell and Australia entered the last day with their score 117 for one Rain and bad light ended the match 42 minutes early with Australia 292 for seven

QUESTION 1

Who was the South African whose 100 in nine hours five minutes stood for 20 years as Test cricket's slowest century?

It was in this series—1957-58 –that an Australian, added to the party only after another player had withdrawn, scored more than 50 in five of his seven Test innings and was four times not out Although his top score was 83 not out, he headed the Australian Test batting averages with 125



Hanif in his younger days

QUESTION 2

Who was this batsman whose seven Test innings yielded 3 and 65 not out, 63, 32 and 52 not out, 83 not out and 77 not out?

The same batsman takes his place among Test cricket's slowest performers with 31 in 264 against England at Lord's in 1956

The list of slowest scorers includes some well-known names—J T Murray, the England wicketkeeper, three in 100 minutes against Australia, Pataudi, five in 102 minutes, for India against England, another England 'keeper Godfrey Evans, 10 not out in 133 minutes against Australia, Hanif Mohammad, 20 in 195 minutes for Pakistan against England, Herbert Collins, 40 in 289 minutes for Australia against England, Frank Worrell, 197 not out in 682 minutes for the West Indies against England and New Zealander Glenn Turner, 259 in 705 minutes against the West Indies

Among the first 14 listed for slow Test batting *Wisden* names two players twice One is Hanif Mohammad, for, in addition to his 20 in 195 minutes against England at Lord's in 1954, there was his historic 337 in 999 minutes—the longest Test innings ever played— against the West Indies at Bridgetown, 1958 The other batsman twice named for slow batting is an Englishman

QUESTION 3

Who is this batsman who qualifies with these performances—eight in 120 minutes against South Africa, at Leeds in 1955, and 68 in 458 minutes against Australia at Brisbane in 1958?

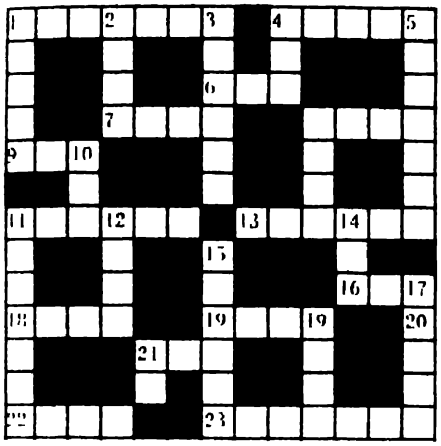
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 George Headley, whose average for 9,921 runs was 69 86
2 Ponsford, 13,819 runs at an average of 65 18 and Woodfull, 13,392 at 65
3 Hammond 56 1 (for 50,493 runs), Compton 51 85 (for 38,942 runs) May (51 for 27,592 runs)
4 Merchant (43 centuries from 221 innings) 19 45 per cent, Morris (46 centuries from 242 innings) 19 per cent, Hassett (59 centuries from 322 innings) 18 82 per cent Kippax (43 centuries from 254 innings) 16 92 per cent, Walcott (40 centuries from 238 innings) 16 8 per cent, Hammond (167 centuries from 1,005 innings) 16 61 per cent, Badcock (26 centuries from 159 innings) 16 35 per cent

Crossword

Jones & O'Brien

125



ACROSS

1 Sporting insect (7)
1 Cardgame in the fire? (5)
6 Unholy cricket equipment makes a short cricket supervisor (3)
7 Donald Budge was the first to bang the great door of tennis (4)
8 Cards on board? (4)
9 Hindelkar initially (1,1,1)
11 Maybe game or structure (6)
13 First male Olympic 100 metres swimming gold medallist went on a pilgrimage to Mecca at the beginning (1,5)
16 Off and on in cricket? (3)
18 Tennis sweetheart (4)
19 Adavis cricket stadium? (4)
21 Drawing in the alley (3)
22 Cricketer nicknamed Lulu (5)
23 Find an Indian hockey Olympian who can tag vans (6,1)

DOWN

1 The Wizard of the Dribble (5)
2 Sporting honours go to our heads (1)
3 It is strange why cricket personnel should interfere with the bridge match (6)
4 Laszlo just fails to make it (3)
5 Sporting equipment create a lot of confusion (7)
8 Wrestler is paid Dearness Allowance at the start (4)
10 Abdul of Indian cricket (3)
11 What are Bedi and Hall doing in the alley? (7)
12 Loss with this iced cube (4)
14 Cricketer who roams about barefoot in the parks? (3)
15 They happen on big sporting occasions (6)
17 Perhaps the most precious sounding Olympic swimmer returns (5)
20 Initially controls U S inter-collegiate basketball (1,1,1)
21 Equality on the golf-course (3)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Rajat Ghose

QUESTIONS

State whether the following statements are correct or not

1 In shot put, the athlete begins by facing the back of the circle
2 The 800 metres is an exact half-mile
3 Medium-paced bowlers can be used on any type of pitch
4 The MCC is the sole authority for cricket laws, their interpretation and alteration
5 As far as crossing of the English Channel is concerned, the shortest distance is from Dover to Calais
6 Like Wes Hall, Andy Roberts also took his 100th Test wicket in only his 20th Test
7 Alberto Juantorena was formerly a basketball player
8 Jumping in front of the opponent goalkeeper with a view to obstructing his view is forbidden in football
9 Ray Lindwall has Test centuries to his credit
10 Pele led Brazil to victory in the 1970 World Soccer Cup

ANSWERS

1 Correct
2 Incorrect It is slightly less than half a mile
3 Correct
4 Correct
5 Incorrect It is Dover to Cap Gris Nez
6 Incorrect It was the 19th
7 Correct
8 Incorrect
9 Correct
10 Incorrect Carlos Alberto led Brazil in the 1970 World Cup

Question box

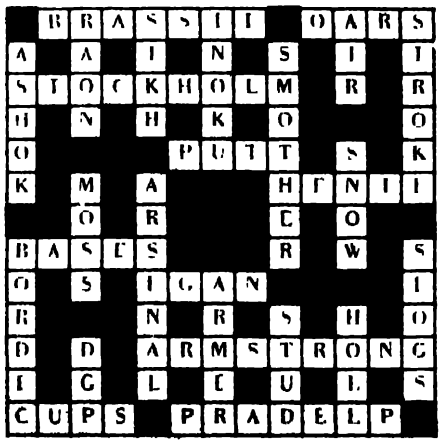
Questions by readers

N K Srikanth Bangalore

Q What is the Test record of G Greenidge?

A 34 Tests, 59 innings, 3 times not out, 2,435 runs, 134 as the highest score in 5 centuries, 17 fifties and 3 zeroes with the average of 43.12

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 124



Debashish Ray, Howrah

Q. Which Indian has hit the fastest century in Tests?

A Dilip Sardesai has completed a century in 127 minutes in his knock of 106, in the Delhi Test against New Zealand in the 1964-65 series

Ramakrishna Karmakar, 24 Parganas; Subhajeet Dey, Jorhat; R K Chatterjee, Uttarpara

Q Give the full record of Vijay Merchant in Test cricket

A Tests 10, innings 18, total runs 859, highest score 154 in 3 centuries 3 fifties and 2 zeroes, average 47.72 and catches 7

N K Bajaj, Kanpur

Q. Who, Gavaskar, Hazare or Vishwanath has scored most centuries and with best average, in India?

A Gavaskar, and not Hazare or Vishwanath has scored most runs (6,218), most centuries (23) and possessed best average of 53.14

Q Name the batsmen who have hit centuries in both innings for India

A Sunil Gavaskar three times and Vijay Hazare once

Q Name the player who has hit maximum centuries for India in first class cricket

A Sunil Gavaskar who has hit 59 centuries in first-class cricket for India

K P Mohammad Ali, Udipi

Q. In how many Tests did the following bowlers take 100 wickets? Andy Roberts, Ian Botham, Fred Trueman, Imran Khan Kapil Dev, Jeff Thomson Denis Lillee, Alan Davidson, Graham McKenzie, Richard Hadlee

A. Roberts completed 100 wickets in 19 Tests, Botham in 19 Tests Trueman in in 25 Tests, Imran Khan in 26 Tests Davidson in 29 Tests, McKenzie in 23 Tests, Richard Hadlee in 25 Tests, Kapil Dev in 25 Tests, Thomson in 22 Tests and Lillee in 22 Tests

Rajoo, Raigangpur

Q. Which player had a record time to play again after being dropped? How many Tests was he not considered and when was he recalled?

A. G Gunn of England had the longest gap of 18 years between his Test appearances He first appeared in 1911-12 vs Australia and then in 1929-30 vs West Indies at Kingston

Vijaykrishna Acharya, Kanpur

Q What are the dates of birth of Lawrence Rowe, Clive Lloyd, Lance Gibbs and Collis King?

A Rowe was born on 8.1.1949, Lloyd on 31.8.1944 Gibbs on 29.9.1934 and C L King on 11.6.1951

S P Mandol Keonjhar

Q What is the Test batting record of Clive Lloyd?

A As on 15.8.1981 Lloyd has made 5,556 runs in 137 innings (with 9 times not out) of 82 Tests at an average of 43.40 with 14 centuries, 27 fifties and 3 zeroes

Q When where and against whom did Mohinder Amarnath make his debut in Test?

A 5th Test against Australia at Madras in 1969-70

Dudly Thakur, J & K.
Q. What is the lowest score in an innings in Test cricket?
A 26 by New Zealand against England at Auckland in 1954-55

Kanaka Raja, Mahabub Nagar
Q How many centuries were scored by P Umrigar?
A 12 in 59 Tests
Q. In which Tests did Bradman score ducks?
A (1) 5th Test vs West Indies at Sydney, 1930-31 (2) 2nd Test vs England at Melbourne 1932-33, (3) 1st Test and (4) 2nd Test vs England at Brisbane and Sydney respectively, 1936-37, (5) 4th Test vs England at Adelaide, 1946-47, (6) and (7) 1st and 5th Test vs England at Nottingham and The Oval respectively in 1948

H. Lari, U.P.
Q. Who was the firstbatsman who achieved the first triple century in Test cricket?and where?
A. Andy Sandham of England scored the first ever triple century—325 in the fourth Test against West Indies at Kingston in 1929-30

N. Ganesh, Madras.
Q. What are the specifications of a badminton court?
A. 20' × 44' or 6 10 m × 13 4m

Tufan Koner, Raipur.
Q How many runs has Zaheer Abbas scored against England in England in 1974?
A. 48 and 19, 1 and 1 and 240 and 15, making a total of 324 runs at an average of 54 00 runs per innings

Atul Asthana, Ranchi.
Q. Who will be out when the striker hits the ball without leaving the crease but the non-striker reaches the batsman's crease and the stumps at the non-striker's end are uprooted?
A. Non-striker

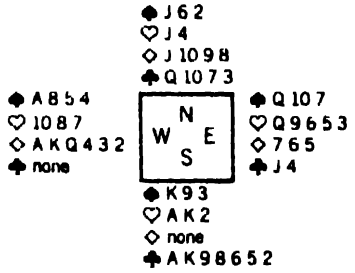
K. Sivakumar, Madras
Q. Which batsman has scored the fastest double century in Test cricket? In how many minutes did he score this?
A. Don Bradman of Australia has scored the fastest double century (in 214 minutes) against England at Leeds in 1930

Pankaj Nag, Gomoh.
Q What is Greg Chappell's highest score in Test cricket?
A 247 not out against New Zealand at Wellington in 1973-74

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Bridge can be an infuriating game at times It has happened before and it will happen again, but recently one of our players in the European Common Market Championship found a neat and almost fool-proof way of making a doubled contract Success? Oh, yes, but the opponent at the other table had made exactly the same contract after trying a much inferior line of play which, as the cards lay, happened to work There is no justice



At game all South dealt, and the bidding at both tables followed these lines·

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	double	2 ♣	2 ♡
5 ♣	double	pass	pass
pass			

You may not be charmed with either of West's doubles and you will not be without supporters

Against five-clubs doubled West led a top diamond and must have been depressed (but surely not surprised!) to find declarer ruffing the opening lead South's problem was all too simple - she had to avoid losing three tricks in spades, for there were no other possible losers

One declarer saw the problem in a simple light She drew trumps ruffed her losing heart in dummy and (feeling sure that ♠ A was wrong) led a spade to the nine West was forced to win with the Ace and there was South's eleventh trick It wouldn't have helped the defence if East had put up ♠ 10 - South simply covers and ♠ 9 and ♠ J are between them worth a trick

Why was the other South cross about this performance? After eliminating hearts, she had led ◇ J from the table, discarding a spade when East did not cover Now West, on winning with ◇ Q, was end-played – a diamond or a spade would yield a trick while a heart would concede a ruff and discard And, of course, if East *had* been able to cover ◇ J, declarer would still have had time to try out the spades

Last week's quiz: you opened 1NT and your left-hand opponent joined in with a bid of two-diamonds This was explained as Astro (not Aspro, a similar convention, but designed to 'relieve headaches') and the bid showed a two-suited hand with at least nine cards in spades and another suit Your partner doubled this conventional bid of two-diamonds – how should you interpret the double? Well, there are a number of conflicting theories. The double could show general values, it could show strength in spades, but the way that I prefer (in principle) to play the double of conventional bids is that I hold the suit that I have doubled If I have, perhaps, spades in the example above, I can pass and double later

This week's quiz: with so many people playing 'strong club' systems, is it worth while devising a simple defence? Or should a double of a conventional one club simply show clubs?

Chess

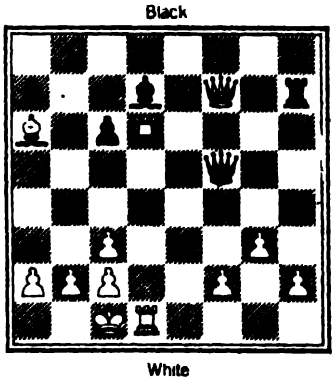
Peter Clarke

It is still regrettably true that many chessplayers find endgames boring This reflects not upon any deficiencies in the final phase of the game, but upon the inability or unwillingness of such players to see its good points "People don't expect tactics to break out in the ending and so they don't look for them " These are John Nunn's words in the introduction to his latest book, *Tactical Chess Endings*, published by Allen & Unwin (hardback, £8 95) He goes on to show that the endgame is in fact not only alive with tactics but essentially more tactical than strategic There specific variations can and often must be calculated many moves ahead, and the moment of decision will more than likely depend on a tactical set-piece it could be mate, stalemate, promotion, positional draw, breakthrough, zugzwang, perpetual check, to all of which Nunn devotes separate chapters Alertness to the possibility of a tactical device may be rewarded at any time, enabling a player to alter the course of the game at a stroke Take the following two incidents from the career of the Soviet master Vladimir Simagin. Borisenko – Simagin, Moscow, 1955 White King on KR3, Queen on Q4, pawns on QB5, KKt3 and KKt5, Black King on KKt1, Queen on KB8, pawns on KB2 and KKt3 White to play Borisenko, hoping to win, played 1 K – Kt4 The shock finish was 1 P – B4ch, 2 P x Pe p , Q – B4ch, 3 K – R4, Q – R4mate This lucky break made up for a disaster in an even simpler Queen ending the year before Batuyev – Simagin, Riga, 1954 White King on QKt2, Queen on KKt7, Black King on K8, Queen on K5, pawn on K6 Black to play It should not be difficult to promote the pawn after 1 K – B7, 2 Q – B6ch, Q – B6, 3 Q – Q4, K – B8, but Simagin decided to advance it at once – with this result 1 P – K7??, 2 Q – Kt1ch, K – Q7, 3 Q – QB1ch, K – Q6, 3 Q - B3mate

Composed endgame positions, known as studies, are also featured in this book Here is an example D Joseph, *British Chess Magazine*, 1922 White King on Q8, pawns on QKt5 and KR2, Black King on QR2, pawns on QR3 and QKt2 White to play and win The solution will be given next week

Competition 6486. Solution next week

Black



White

How did White win quickly?

Solution to 6484 (Tal – Golombek, Munich, 1958) (2qr1k2q/5p1r/1pp1pP2/p1N2pQ1/Pa1P3p/8/1P4PP/3R1R1K – White to play.) Tal sacrificed two pieces 30 R - B4, P x Kt, 31 R x RP, R x R, 32 Q - Kt7ch, K – K1, 33 Q - Kt8ch, K – Q2, 34 Q x Pch, K – Q3, 35 Q – K7ch, and Black resigned

Problem No 1160. Solution next week

Q. Sladek (First Prize, *Schach-Echo*, 1958) **(k3nRr1/1p2P3/1Pp5/p1p5/K1P5/6B2/8/8 – 6 white men; 7 black.)** White to play and mate in four moves

Solution to No 1159 (Kraemer). (3Q4/4N3/4P1pr/5pPr/3Rbk1p/7P/4R2K/4N3 – mate in two.) 1 R - Q1 (zugzwang) (a) 1 K – K4, 2 Q – Q6, (b) 1 K x P, 2 Kt – Q5, (c) 1 R x P, 2 Q – Q6, (d) 1 R – R1, 2 Kt x KtP, (e) 1 B – B6, 2 Q – Q2, (f) 1 B – Q6, 2 Kt – Q5

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Letters to the Editor

Surprise

THE surprising omission of Chetan Chauhan has come as a shock to all cricket lovers Although Srikkanth has been playing well in the domestic cricket, he is too inexperienced to play in Test cricket. Then, one cannot understand the selection of Kirti Azad, who was a total flop in Australia and has not done well with the bat in the few matches he has played against England this season

RAJIV SRIVASTAVA,
New Delhi

THE selection of the Indian cricket team has been done with an eye to the politics that has become an integral thing of sports Chauhan's ability as a reliable batsman made him the safest bet for a difficult task If anyone was responsible for keeping the Indian flag flying in Australia and New Zealand it was Chetan Chauhan. Though he has not been among the runs in the domestic season, but dismissing him has always been a tough task for the opposition in the Test matches.

If the national selectors think that just because of poor domestic seasons, Karsan Ghavri, Yashpal Sharma and Chetan Chauhan should be dropped, I think the same rule should also have been applied to Kapil Dev, Vishwanath, Kirti Azad and Shivlal Yadav, who have had very poor performance behind them But politics was the key and these players found themselves in squad and the others didn't

M KRISHNA KUMAR,
Secunderabad.

ARUN LAL and Randhir Singh should be given a chance in the Test series against England. Arun has matured himself into an enterprising opener-cum-middle-order batsman, plus a very fine fielder and can surely play a big role in the current series. The Indian

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team badly needs a medium pacer who can bowl effectively with Kapil and the choice should fall on Randhir Singh. But what should be noted immediately is the shocking omission of Chetan Chauhan and the inclusion of Vishwanath. If domestic cricket is the yardstick to the selectors, I think the time has come when Vishwanath should be dropped.

ASOKE KUMAR GHOSH, Calcutta.

Strange

THE recent statement of Sunil Gavaskar on the eve of the first Test seems to be strange. He is of the view that a physical fitness camp should have been conducted for the Test probables. In the past, we have performed well without such camps and Gavaskar should not take this as an excuse if he happens to lose the series.

Now Rajinder Goel of Haryana has acquired the reputation of being the only bowler to claim 500 wickets in Ranji Trophy. The Bombay-based selectors failed to recognise the talent of the skilful left-arm spinner all these days. Goel deserved more than some of our so-called selectors.

C. K. SUBRAMANIUM, and JAYANTHI SUBRAMANIUM, Ghaziabad.

Commended

THE promise made by the Union Minister of State for Shipping, Mr Buta Singh, to Angel Mary Joseph, the star Pentathlete, of providing her monetary help deserves to be commended. The national champion was suffering from a slippped disc for over a year Whether the verval promise would materialise is of course yet to be seen

If India is to make any head-way in the field of sports, we have to nurse our sportsmen and women carefully An athlete is always prone to injury If he or she is injured and does not get the necessary treatment in proper time, the athlete's career is most likely to be ruined. Yohannan and Suresh Babu, to name a few, are two glaring examples whose career ended abruptly due to lack of medical facilities. Provisions of sports medical facilities for sportsmen at various training centres is a necessary if we really want to improve our standard

The induction of Mercy Mathews, M D. Valsamma and Sreekumari Amma in the Railway has been a great loss for Kerala The trio, along with the queen of the Indian track, P T Usha have obviously put Kerala as the number one State in athletics With the good nursing of the Kerala Sports Council—the only sports council in India which is doing its homework quite regularly—the State will, however, be able to produce many more top athletes Maybe Kerala's loss is Railways' gain But, that does not matter as long as it is for the good of the nation

P S MONY, Trivandrum

Congratulations

THOUGH East Zone lost Duleep Trophy, still I extend my heartiest congratulations to Dilip Doshi as a captain He has been able to guide excellently his team, which maintained a high spirit throughout the match In the past, we observed how lazy the East Zone fielders were in general giving away runs and dropping catches In the recent tie the fielding showed marked improvement, but now is the time to bottle up the fielding

D K CHOUDHURY, Bombay

Ill luck!

ILL luck Doshi! Due to some of your incompetent fielders all your efforts have gone in vain Thus, we, the cricket lovers of East Zone, could not enjoy the taste of victory once again What an easily achievable victory has gone out of hand only due to some very nasty fielding! Still, I must congratulate Doshi's captaincy along with his individual performances with bat and ball I also congratulate Arun Lal and Pranab Roy for their performances. I think, Arun Lal would get the 'Test Cap' in the current home series against England. A last word of praise for Asjit Jayprakash and Randhir Singh for their bowling.

JAYANTA NANDI ROY, Calcutta

My most memorable moments

ZAKAUDDIN

DOES the name of Zakauddin seem familiar? No, unless one knows the history of Pakistan hockey. He has represented his country in three Olympics (1958, 1960 and 1964) and two Asian Games (1962 and 1966) plus a number of internationals in and outside Pakistan. The crack Pakistani inside-right was born in October, 1936 at Jullundur and then migrated to Lahore in 1947. Zakauddininhis early life was more interested in cricket, and even after he moved to Lahore with his family, he continued to play the gentleman's game. But then hockey was more popular in Lahore and this was the very reason why he opted for hockey.

After passing his Matric examination in 1952, Zakuddin joined the Islamic College there and started playing for the college team. This was, in fact, the turning point of his hockey career. He began with all the seriousness to become what he is today. He won the inter-varsity hockey title thrice in a row. In 1955, while donning Punjab University, he was picked by the Attock Oil Company and played for three years. During this spell the company won almost all the major tournaments in Pakistan. Then he was selected to represent Pakistan in 1958. This was the year from which his glorious career started and which continued beyond 1966, when he was appointed vice-captain of the national team, though he captained Pakistan at that time in a few matches. He also became the coach of Pakistan team in 1969, in Rome Olympics in 1972 and, lastly, for the forthcoming World Cup at Bombay. Incidentally, he was the coach of the team in the Indo-Pakistan 'Test' series in India.

PRIOR to the 1962 Asian Games at Jakarta, we went to tour Kenya where we really played very well. After we reached Jakarta we began practising and, at the same time, seeing other participating teams doing their workouts including formidable India. We were very confident in ourselves and brushed aside the opposition that came from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Singapore and others. But I got injured before the semi-finals against Ceylon I felt terribly sad and was in agony when my right thumb got crashed. I was taken to hospital accompanied by my skipper Atif and my relative, Pakistan's right-back Munir Dar Munir Dar became very nervous and even turned pale Then only I realised the extent of my injury. It made me feel dejected as the injury might stop me from playing the finals against India We had two days' rest before the semis with Ceylon and blood continued to ooz from the thumb, giving the notion



to everybody that I would definitely miss the final. But I was determined to play and I was fielded for the last four matches. We beat them hands down 5-0. But I was happy to hear later that despite my injury I had played extremely well. In those days we were so confident that I wrote a letter to my elder brother, who is the present director of News and Current Affairs, Pakistan TV, scribbling that we were going to beat India at least 2-0. It was a risk I had taken in saying this as it was never thought in those days that India could be beaten. But we did defeat India by the margin I had predicted That eventful day we drank a lot of beer and celebrations galore I was so relaxed and happy.

Another moment I remember was before the hockey final in the 1964 Olympics against none other than India. We were very confident and also declared favourites by the Press there We began playing very well and missed a number of goals—a few penalty corners too. (Pauses for a while). Then came the second session There was a place hit against us at the left side near me. Gurbux Singh, who was playing left-half, took the push. I looked back and saw left flankman Dharsan standing unmarked. I shouted to my right-half Saeed Anwar to mark Dharsan but he was a little late. Dharsan speedily went down the flank and, near the 25-yard line, Munir Dar tried to intercept him but missed and was penalised for obstructing. A penalty corner was awarded and the great Indian right back Prithipal Singh took the shot hitting the shin of Munir Dar and the umpire pointed to the dreaded spot—penalty stroke. Mohinder Singh flicked the ball to the farthest corner of the net.

After conceding the goal we went all out, missing from all directions, and muffing a number of penalty corners We got yet another penalty corner , while my eyes went straight to the clock in the stadium. Only a few seconds were left. We missed the last chance. This was the greatest shock of my life Even now this debacle haunts me.

I went back home, rested a while and began serious practice for the next big meet. I think defeats and victories are all in the game. Rather, we should get the younger generation to work harder than ever before. Young sportsmen should follow this seriously.

As told to SUBHASH SARCAR

Infighting: The root of the failure

The football team of the East Bengal Club has experienced a very bad year. SARAJIT DEB spoke to the people concerned to find the reason for this debacle

THE success of a leading club, especially if it is a Calcutta-based one, depends a lot on the relations of the club authorities with the players and the players with the coach A team can expect success only when these relations are cordial and the coach and officials have confidence in the players who, on their part, share a team spirit. But that has not been the case with East Bengal this year, which is one of the main reasons for its lacklustre performance

The club is, in fact, now in the midst of tremendous turmoil. The executive committee of the club consists of members who belong to various groups This certainly has not helped the cause of the club It is learnt from reliable sources that the present general secretary, Nishith Ghosh and the assistant general secretary Arun Bhattacharya, are at loggerheads with each other There are various reasons for this infighting but, perhaps, the three Iranian players of the side—Majid Baskar, Jamshid Nasirri and Mehmood Khabazi—are at the root of the present trouble

Let us travel back a few years and see how these players started playing an important role in the affairs of the club. In the middle of the 1978 Calcutta Football League, Wari A C —a low-order First Division side—defeated East Bengal At that time, a senior official of the club had side "We shall drive everybody out next year. What do they think? And what is their contribution, after being given so many opportunities? We are not going to tolerate the whims of individual players Next year (1979), we'll build a team with outstation players and won't depend on the locals."

True to their word, the club authorities brought quite a few outstation players in the 1979 season The team looked very strong, at least on paper. The club supporters felt that there was no team—not just in Calcutta, but in the country—to match East Bengal. Trophies would come merely for the asking. But that did not happen Not a single trophy was won, even after the club had participated in five tournaments that season

That year, at the centre of the row were three Punjabis of the team, Manjit Singh, Gurdev Singh and Harjinder Singh It is gathered that the present assistant secretary, Arun Bhattacharya, was instrumental in bringing them to Calcutta "Yes, brought them, but I must explain how it all happened", said Arun Bhattacharya. "I had not taken the initiative to bring them The then football secretary, Paresh Saha, was interested in them. Two gentlemen, B N Ghosh and Ashim Bhattacharya, both members of the club, had some relations with the Punjabis and they had talked with Paresh Saha.

"The club decided to recruit these players for the season, but the secretary felt that there might be a communication gap and for the reason asked me to go and negotiate the deal with them. That's all," Arun Bhattacharya said. In the middle of the season, these players allegedly had some trouble with Devraj, a player from Bangalore, and ultimately the south Indian player left the city Moreover, the then coach, Aroon Ghosh, also left the club halfway through the season Some local stars were also allegedly involved in the club wranglings

"The task of recruiting players and building up the team for the 1980 season fell on two senior members of the club, Jyotirmoy Sengupta and Ajay Srimani", said Arun Bhattacharya. "But, at the same time, they were told by the general secretary, Nishith Ghosh, that players like Surajit Sengupta and Chinmoy Chatterjee, who had behaved badly with the club, should not be kept in the team He agreed to keep Bhaskar Ganguly and Shabbir Ali and certain advance arrangements were made with them But ultimately, they also left and joined Mohammedan Sporting Before the actual transfers, we realised that we were left with a very poor side, and

The Iranians arrive in Calcutta, accompanied by the general secretary (extreme right) and the assistant secretary (second from right) and then later withdrawing in favour of the old club (picture on the right) with the assistant secretary (partly visible) watching anxiously





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

it became a joke on the Maidan that we were not in a position to field even eleven players. So, we tried and managed to get the services of Majid, Jamshid and Khabazi. The team played well and a high level of morale was maintained throughout the season This was one of the main reasons why we were successful. We shared the Federation Cup with Mohun Bagan and the Rovers Cup with Mohammedan Sporting and were the only side not to lose to an Indian team "

THE present football secretary of the club, Prasanta Ghosh, had this to say about the recruitment of the three Iranians. "Last year I had gone with the Bengal team for the Junior Nationals at Orissa and when I came back, I learnt that these three Iranians had been contacted through a person known to me I heard that they were asking for a fabulous amount and most of it had to be paid there and then But I had no locus standi and so contacted the general secretary and told him that I knew the person who was negotiating the deal and asked him as to whether I should talk to that person When I was given permission, I talked with him and somehow managed to bring down the figure that they were asking for as advance payment After everything was finalised with the contact man, we suddenly realised that the three Iranians were not coming from Delhi. I thought that because I was conducting the negotiations, some people were trying to create difficulties So I stood aside and ultimately Arunda (the assistant secretary) went and brought them "

Right from the beginning, the Iranians were treated as "very special people " A flat was provided for them in a posh area of the city, at the club's expense "There was nothing special about it They told us that since they were studying, they wanted a separate flat, that's all", Nishith Ghosh offered, by way of explanation. But a member of the club, who is very closely associated with the internal affairs of the football section, told me "The Iranians joined the club at a very crucial juncture. Before they came, we were a very poor side, with hardly any good players If at that time they had asked for the moon, the general secretary would have had to say that he would get it for them. He had no other alternative but to bow down to their wishes—the situation was that bad "

The Iranians were definitely pampered all through the season Reportedly, they even had a major tiff with the then coach, P.K. Banerjee, but somehow the whole thing was hushed up The preferential treatment given to them—in comparision with other outstation players—was not noticed because there were no 'stars' amongst them, except Md. Habib. And Habib is too much of a professional to waste his energy on such trifle.

After the 1980 season ended, East Bengal officials wanted to build a strong side. "I have been accused of having some underhand dealings with



Prasanta Ghosh 'I m partly responsible'

the outstation players I would like to clear everything", said Arun Bhattacharya "Actually, the recruitment had started last year itself. During the Darjeeling Gold Cup, Prasanta Ghosh had met Narendra Gurung and had talked with him Later, he was even paid an advance But ultimately, things didn't work out and he has not returned the money so far "

"Anyway, after the club elections, the general secretary told me to build the team, along with the football secretary, Prasanta Ghosh We made three lists, but the general secretary told us and also made a Press statement that we should not bring any player from Mohun Bagan Neither were we allowed to call back the players who had left us The only exception could be Bhaskar and Shabbir, but the condition was that they would have to openly apologise for past 'misdeeds' if they wanted to come back That was because they had accepted an advance and then left the club.

"So, we were terribly handicapped and it was but natural that we were inclined towards outstation players Let us take the outstation players one by one and see how they were recruited First, the case of Joseph Machado He had taken an advance from the club in February/March 1980 for the 1980 season But his inter-State transfer was not granted, so he could not assist the side last year But somehow, the club had failed to get back the money which we had paid as advance For that reason, the club secretary wanted Machado to be in the team this year so that we could get back the money in kind—that is, through his service to the club.

"We had not thought of taking D. Shekharan, because we already had Monoranjan and Samar Bhattacharya as our stopper backs. Samar had gone to the football secretary and had asked for a certain amount of money for his services this year We, (the football secretary and myself) went to the secretary and told him the figure Samar was demanding He agreed to pay that amount Then, we—Prasanta, Samar and myself—met at Prasanta's office, but there Samar asked for more than what he had previously quoted. I did not like his attitude, because he seemed adamant Anyway, the matter ended there because Samar joined the Salt Lake Asian Games preparation camp

"Incidentally, I never visited the Salt Lake camp Samar left the camp, with the other players and we put him up in a hotel in south Calcutta, along with the other players who were willing to join the club this year. He wanted to go home, giving various excuses I did not like the idea, so I suggested that he could go home, but he must be accompanied by someone from the club But the persons deputed to keep a close vigil on him failed in their duty as was evident when he left the hotel, leaving behind a letter. After that, I left for Delhi, and there I heard allegation that he had behaved badly with the club officials when they had gone to visit him at his residence. For that reason, they decided that they would not keep him for the current season "But the football secretary, Prasanta Ghosh had a different story to tell· "He was kept in the hotel and when he left without permission, Arunda became adamant and decided that he should not be kept "

ARUN BHATTACHARYA continued "After it was decided that Samar was not being kept, I had suggested Sudip Chatterjee, as his replacement But the club was not interested in the Railway player because they thought that he could not recover from the injury he had incurred last season So, Shekharan was thought of as a last-minute replacement for Samar Sudhamoy Dasgupta, a senior member of the club, and a member of the executive committee, was persuaded to go to Bangalore There, with the help of Amjad and Ahmad Khan, he managed to finalise the deal with Shekharan. He was made to sign a written contract and was assured that he would be paid his advance amount when he came to Calcutta "

"But, he was not given the money when he came to Calcutta. He waited for seven days and when I realised that the club was not in a position to give him the money, I told him about the financial position of the club At that time, no one came with me But I assured him that the amount would be given to him when the team went to play the Stafford Cup at Bangalore, his home town And it was there, when the team did go to play, that the advance was finally given

"Fareed had caught the eye of some of our people last year and again in the

Cuttack Nationals and at the Salt Lake camp His deal was finalised at my residence, in front of the football secretary It was Prasanta who brought the players to my residence and the signatory on behalf of the club was Prasanta As with Fareed, C D. Francis was also finally contacted at the Salt Lake camp But he said that he wanted to get the permission of his elder brother He phoned thrice from my residence and again the deal was finalised in front of the football secretary." Prasanta Ghosh also had the same story to narrate as far as the recruitment of these players was concerned

"Coming to the Iranians", Arun Bhattacharya, said, "Mohammedan Sporting had offered them a fantastic amount of money for their services. Perhaps, they had even approached the Vice-Chancellor. of the Aligarh University—where they are students—to influence the Iranians and help Mohammedan Sporting get their services. We—wanted to retain them for the year Two of our club people went to Aligarh and took Majid and Jamshid out of the University, telling them that the club officials would be back on February 28 to finalise the deal

"In the meantime, Khabazi dilly-dallied with the Mohammedan Sporting officials, who kept visiting the Aligarh University Ultimately, he also left the place and joined his countrymen, in their place of hiding. I was sent to negotiate that deal in the first week of March. But when I saw that the Iranians were asking for a fabulous sum of money, I did not take the risk and wrote a letter to the secretary. Purposely, I wrote it in Bengali, so that even if it landed in the wrong place, non-Bengalis would not be able to understand the contents of the letter. In that letter, I mentioned the amount they were demanding and also said that I did not think the amount was at all reasonable But I told him that if he thought that the amount was justified, I could go ahead and settle the deal I had even requested him not to take such a big decision alone, but to consult some of the executive committee members That was just a friendly advice, to safeguard his interest

"I was informed at Delhi, over the telephone, that the secretary himself would be coming to finalise the deal. Two days later he, along with Narayan Poddar (an executive committee member) came and finalised the deal. The deal was settled by the general secretary, and I had no hand in it"

However, the general secretary had a different story to tell "The whole thing was a hoax. I don't think that Mohammedan Sporting was even interested in the Iranians It was just used as a means to hike up their price. I do not know anything about the deal, nor did I participate in the dealings" But when told that we have evidence of him bringing the Iranians from Delhi (a picture at the airport), he said: "It was just an accident. I just happened to be on the same plane"

Here, a third version would be interesting. "I had a bitter experience over the recruitment of the Iranians last year But I also felt that they were absolutely necessary for my team. I thought that since they had been reluctant to come last year, they might again create some hassles if I butted in, and for that reason, though I finalised the deal with the rest of the players, I never interfered when the dealings were being conducted with the Iranians As far as my knowledge goes, the general secretary, along with the assistant secretary, finalised the deal I may be wrong, but I can assure you, I had no part in it," said Prasanta Ghosh, the football secretary"

After the team was made at the end of the transfer 'season', it looked a strong outfit, at least on paper. It went to participate in the Stafford Cup at Bangalore There, East Bengal became the joint-winners with Mohammedan Sporting It was all the more creditable because the team went practically without any practice But, the problem of getting a suitable coach started cropping up at Bangalore

"At the beginning of the season, I had suggested a coaching scheme," said Arun Bhattacharya. "I had suggested that the whole coaching scheme should be divided into two parts

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physical training and technical perfection. For the first, I suggested the name of Kali Singh, an athlete, who was the physical trainer during the heydays of the club. And for the second aspect, I had suggested that some senior players like Manoranjan, Sudhir Karmakar and Khabazi be put in charge of the whole team. This would have meant involvement of the players themselves. But suddenly, I learnt that Prabir Mazumder had been appointed coach. After everything was finalised with him, I was told to prepare the letter of appointment, which was on a temporary (monthly) basis.

"One of the reasons why we were successful at Bangalore was because an experienced manager, Sudhamoy Dasgupta, had accompanied the team He had selected a first eleven and that set of players was fielded every day. Only when a player failed, he was substituted But after the tournament, the manager became the target of attack of a section of the committee The reason, apparently, was that he had paid Shekharan the full amount of advance which had been promised to him at Calcutta But I think he did the right thing, otherwise the club would have lost face with those who had helped us in getting Shekharan."

The football secretary said "Before the team left for Bangalore, I had asked the manager to see that all the players returned to Calcutta after the Stafford tourney It was to ensure that the team would have sufficient practice before the Federation Cup at Madras But most of the players chose not to come back to Calcutta. Only the local boys, along with the Iranians, came back and started practising."

THE team fared disastrously at Madras where they lost both to Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan. It was at Madras that the rift started among the players. The Iranians were pampered all along. They enjoyed a lot of liberties that the other players were deprived of, they were allowed to eat at any place they chose, and the amount was always reimbursed But that was not the case with other players "I had nothing to do with it," said Prasanta Ghosh, who went to Madras as the manager of the side. "I used to pay them a certain amount of money which had been allotted to them, daily, from last year I was only following the instructions issued."

After the team came back from Madras, there was a change of coach Prabir Mazumdar was unceremoniously replaced by an ex-player Santo Mitra "Majid was not staisfied with the coaching of Prabir Mazumdar and I think the main reason was the communication-gap," said Prasanta Ghosh. The team fared poorly in the Calcutta League, losing again to Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan And after their loss against Mohun Bagan, Santo Mitra relinquished the post of the coach of the side. What happened then is now old hat.

The team started their campaign for



A scene from the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal match in the League After this match the coach left the club

none-too-impressive note Arun Bhattacharya, who was practically missing during the League, was called back to inspire the players. "There was a feeling amongst a section of the committee that since I had already been utilised in building the team, I could be sidetracked after that So, I purposely chose to remain aloof for most part of the League", said Arun Bhattacharya.

"The person who was in the forefront regarding the football affairs was Subir Ghosh, the younger brother of the secretary He is nothing but an extra-constitutional element in the club because he has no locus standi He seemed to rule the roast, as far as football was concerned, of course, along with the football secretary But when I was called in the interest of the club, I could not but go to inspire the players at the camp the day before the semi-final and the final." The football secretary said "It is true that Arunda did go and inspired the players But what I really found astonishing was that he was not there when the final prayers were being offered before the final." But Arun Bhattacharya said: "I did not go to see any of the matches during the IFA Shield because I wanted to keep myself aloof from the internal-wranglings."

After East Bengal shared the Shield with Mohun Bagan, a party was held in a restaurant in Calcutta to celebrate the occasion "But, I, along with the president and some other members of the executive committee were not invited It was restricted to the yes-men of the secretary and the football secretary I came to know at the party that an official announcement was made by the secretary that the players would be endowed with some gifts That announcement should have been made in the presence of the president and other members of the executive committee But the secretary did not think it necessary and announced it by himself."

In the party it was announced that the team would go to Darjeeling to participate in the Gold Cup. "But Majid said that he will not go because he had to study for his examinations When he was told that Jamshid was willing to go he told me that 'Jamshid's brain is his brain and my brain is mine'. When I told Jamshid about this, he assured us that everything responsibility of taking Majid along with the team But the very next day when officials went to pick them up, Majid refused to go It was really an indisciplined act," told Prasanta Ghosh

"Majid came to me the after the team left and I scolded him for not going to Darjeeling with the team Then I convinced him and managed to get a ticket and put him on the train and then informed the general secretary that Majid had left for Darjeeling", Arun Bhattacharya recollected. But the secretary said. "I only came to know that Majid had reached Darjeeling when I read it in the papers." But the football secretary had a different story "I was informed by the secretary, over the phone, that Arunda had arranged for Majid to go to Darjeeling"

AFTER the victory at Darjeeling, the only straight one since 1979, East Bengal went to participate in the DCM tournament, at Delhi There a "history" was created They lost all the three matches in the group league in the quarter-final stage So bad was the state of the team in the first match against Punjab State Electricity Board that they entered the field with only 10 men, Amalraj joining after eight minutes' of play was over Though East Bengal shot into the lead, PSEB swung back and won 2-1 It was followed by defeats against Punjab Police (0-2) and East Fremantle Tricolore, Western Australia (0-5). The Australians could not believe that they were playing against one of the premier clubs of the country.

This year's DCM thus witnessed the most disastrous performance ever given by East Bengal—one of the glamorous teams of Calcutta However, even such a deplorable performance was overshadowed by the controversial suspension of the Iranians—Majid Baskar, Jamshid Nasirri and Mehmood Khabazi (All this was covered in details in an earlier issue of *Sportsworld*, dated November 11) And in the process one thing became clear the club has at last taken some steps against the Iranians "We haven't decided what action will be taken, let us wait for some time and then we'll decide," said the secretary On the other hand, the assistant secretary feels that the Iranians are not in the wrong

Whatever may be the outcome of the battle among the officials, the ultimate loser is the club "I am not shying away from my responsibilities, or my duties Since I am the sectional secretary, I'm definitely responsible for all that happened this year," the football secretary admitted But it is palpably clear that the team which was rated as one of the best in the country could not rise up to its reputation In fact, it was far from it And with the chances of the team participating in the Durand and Rovers very dim, this year was definitely an unfortunate one for the club, a year which the officials, supporters and the players alike would

INDIAN SEAMERS WIN

This was the first time that India won a Test against England in Bombay. In these pages, MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI and the rival captains describe and analyse the three-and-a-half-day match

1st day

ONE assumes that having had a look at the wicket, Gavaskar was relieved to win the toss and bat first The hockey international against Pakistan had been played over it a few days ago and the ground authorities could hardly have had enough time to prepare it to suit a five-day match It looked grassless and patchy which may well make batting more difficult as the game progress Unfortunately India were unable to take advantage and as things stand have given England an opportunity to bat when the wicket will be at its easiest.

The Indian players may complain of the vagaries of the wicket on which the odd ball kept low and came through at an uneven pace, but there can hardly be any valid excuse for scoring only 179 runs Not one batsman looked at ease and if they survived any length of time, they were often in trouble on and outside the off stump The English bowlers kept pegging away at a length and waited for the Indians to make the fatal errors

Gavaskar the highest scorer in the side struck some authentic blows, but he must not have been too satisfied with the performance It was in some ways a repeat of his batting in Australia, where Lillee had baited him successfully out side the off stump The only other batsman to leave an impression was Kapil Dev who began more discreetly than has been his wont in the recent past He opened out to play some attractive and forcing shots Having to a great extent made his presence felt it would have been better had he decided to settle down But Kapil Dev is not built that way He drove Botham once too often and his departure announced the end of any possibilities that India would reach a respectable score

The English quicker bowlers have obviously devised a plan of attack and it centres on concentrating on the off stump, and exploiting the traditional Indian weakness Today Botham was given the Tata End and made to toil the whole day To his credit he was running in as enthusiastically at the end of the day as he had when he had opened the bowling At the other end Willis alternated with Dilley and the combination of these three with some help from the wicket prevented the fulfilment of any Indian ambitions There was some recompense in the evening when Madan Lal had Gooch in two minds and bowled him off the inside edge of the bat

Shastri narrowly escapes a run out



2nd day

IF occupation of the crease is the object, then Boycott and Tavare must be its prime exponents The idea to grind, wear down the limited Indian attack may have seemed a sensible policy but it proved to be a double-edged weapon Boycott and Tavare showed determination and a sound defence, as they prodded and pushed for endless hours, but it also allowed Gavaskar the luxury of retaining an attacking field despite having only 179 runs in the kitty If after a couple of hours of studied application either Boycott or Tavare had made some effort to accelerate the scoring rate, Gavaskar would have been forced on the defensive, and the chances of surviving on a wicket which was now turning appreciably, would have increased As it was, Boycott even at 60 was permanently surrounded by three close-in fielders And to one of them he gave a straightforward catch off the inside edge Within the next 71 runs eight more wickets fell, only Fletcher not looking totally out of his depth It is a well-known fact that English batsmen prefer the security of the crease, and rarely sort it out to challenge the flight On the evidence of this innings it also seems that the sweep shot is now considered the most popular

Botham, Emburey and at the end of a painstaking 310 minutes, even Tavare fell attempting it, and England were bowled out for 166. The game had taken a major somersault much to the delight of a large crowd who had borne Boycott and Tavare with commendable patience. Azad started the rout and once Fletcher had gone, Doshi ended it. The English batting lacked imagination and purpose. Admittedly nobody could call a wicket on which the ball turned or jumped on the 2nd day as suited or even desirable for a Test match, but the fact remained that the English middle order showed as much competence against spin as the Indians had done against pace Incredibly, India were back in the game, and not only back but very much at an advantage. The wicket is unlikely to improve and in the last innings if England is set to score anything over 175 she will find it tough going.



Tavare sweeps Doshi

3rd day



GAVASKAR made two wise decisions today. One was to take the three-ton roller and the other to elevate Shastri in the batting order The first must have subdued the wicket and the second has just about conclusively proved that India can look forward to the services of a talented all-rounder

Yesterday all the Indian spinners had spun the odd ball and English batsmen had reacted warily In fact, batting had been made to look so difficult that one feared for India facing Underwood's awesome reputation But either the wicket which has been rolled over the last three days for 35 minutes decided to change character or Emburey and Underwood were unable to use it as well as the Indian spinners It was once again a lack of application and in Srikkanth's case an inexplicable and unforgiveable lapse in concentration which saw the upper half of the batting order collapse for 90 runs Srikkanth played the ball to gully and while it was still in the fielders' hand, he also decided to wander out of his crease Quick thinking and an accurate throw from Emburey, and Srikkanth became the first of the many unnecessary victims Most of the top five batsmen were well set before they committed their errors and none more so than Vishwanath who made a feisty and fluent 38, before driving at a ball without putting his feet in line Vengsarkar and Gavaskar had already committed similar errors

It was then that Shastri showed that maturity need have no relation with age or experience He was not overawed by the tension or the several fielders around him, and he has a sensible unaffected technique Like most tall men he plays straight, but has a tendency to shuffle too far across Eventually this was the way Dilley trapped him with a ball that kept low and came back off the wicket

India was still very much in trouble, but Kapil has obviously decided to take his batting more seriously. He has all the shots and he made judicious use of them He shielded Madan Lal sensibly and India reached 200, a score which had looked unlikely a couple of hours earlier When he was out in the last over of the day he had made sure that England would need at least 217 to win this match A few more runs tomorrow will further burden England's task But as things stand it is anybody's game Everything will depend on how the wicket has stood to three days cricket, and whether the Indian bowlers, especially the spinners will be able to extract more help, than the English bowlers

4th day



AFTER losing the initial advantage of winning the toss and giving the initiative to England, India from the second day onwards had outplayed England in every department of the game Her spinners had extracted more help from this wicket than either Underwood or Embury, many of her batsmen had shown more competencere than the Englishmen Her fielding had been of a higher order and even her seamers, had used the wicket to a better effect By mid afternoon of this, the supposedly penultimate day, India outmanoeuvred England and emerged absolutely superior Nobody can doubt that at this moment she is the better team

In the morning, Doshi had expressed his views on his ability to bat by refusing to be shielded by Madan Lal Both playing straight added 24 runs and each run fixed another nail in England's coffin Yet if a lead of 240 was more than enough on this wicket, one hardly expected the sensational collapse that was to follow England was bowled out in 26 overs of accurate seam bowling The spinners who were meant to do the damage were not required

The Englishmen have no one except themselves to blame for the debacle They may complain about the umpiring on the wicket There may well have been a couple of poor decisions but that is to be expected when nobody walks Certainly, even if the wicket was not up to Test standard, it was by no means treacherous enough to dismiss an international side for a hundred runs

There will have to be some serious rethinking in this England side In the first innings, the batsmen had relied on the sweep against the spin Today, they either insisted on playing back on a wicket where the odd ball shot low, and were caught, L.B.W. or as the Indians had done earlier, played at balls, more wisely left alone This is not to detract from the efforts of Madan Lal and Kapil Dev Kapil Dev swung the ball late to dispose of Gooch and four others Madan Lal, bowling towards the Tata end, kept a straighter line and cut the ball off the seam

The combination proved too much for a confused batting line-up, and Indian opening bowlers for the first time took all 10 wickets

Gavaskar chipped in by taking two sharp catches which looked very easy. But his main contribution came as a captain In spite of a low first innings total, and losing five wickets for 90 in the second, the team was never dispirited The outfielding was keen and athletic, and the catching sure It was a sign that confidence had not deserted the players and with the substantial advantage of winning the first Test, India should go on to better things

In the England dressing room, there will be headaches, as solutions are sought. One of them will not be criticism of the umpires

But Fletcher's team must be given credit for not reacting as Tony Greig's team had done in 1976 Greig and his players had decided to fight every adverse decision as a matter of principle and tactics The sole idea was to embarrass and pressure the umpire into favouring his side This team, so far anyway, is prepared to be more stoic in attitude, and this should lead to a more peaceful atmosphere in the middle No matter what the British Press or the English players feel and say, the umpiring in this match was not—and I repeat not—responsible for their defeat

FIRST TEST (MATCH no [illegible])

Played at [illegible] Stadium, Bombay, November 27, 28, 29, December 1, 2

Umpires—Swaroop Kishen and K. S. Ramaswamy

Captains—Sunil Gavaskar and Keith Fletcher

Toss won by India, India batted first

(India's 189th Test, England's 573rd Test. 58th between India and England and [illegible] to clash of Test cricket. 30th in Bombay, 8th at the Wankhede Stadium and 19th on Indian soil)

INDIA (1st innings)

S. M. Gavaskar c Taylor b Botham	55
(117 balls, 179 min, 6×4. The ball moved away late, beat the batsman completely and off the outer edge, the ball tickled away to the 'keeper)	
K. Srikanth c Fletcher b Willis	0
(10 balls, 12 min. The batsman put up a defensive blade to the one that flew off a good length. The ball off the top edge of the bat arched on high up in the air to the gully. The batsman was out for a zero on debut.)	
D. B. Vengsarkar c Tavare b Dilley	17
(34 balls, 45 min, 2×4. The batsman nudged at one that moved late and off the outer edge of the bat went to the slips where at the second attempt Tavare had the catch in the second slip)	
G. R. Vishwanath c Boycott b Botham	8
(30 balls, 38 min, 1×4. On trying to push one outside the off stump, without coming fully on the ball, edged a simple catch to the third slip)	
S. M. Patil lbw b Botham	17
(35 balls, 51 min, 2×4. The batsman shuffled across and back to the one that came in sharply off the pitch)	
Kirti Azad c sub (Gatting) b Underwood	14
(44 balls, 83 min, 2×4. Prodded forward to an armer and was caught at forward short leg off bat and pad)	
Kapil Dev c Taylor b Botham	38
(50 balls, 61 min, 6×4. Flashed at one well outside the off stump without going in the line of the ball)	
S. M. H. Kirmani lbw b Dilley	12
(18 balls, 27 min, 2×4. Played half cocked to the one that nipped in sharply and also that kept low)	
Madan Lal c Taylor b Dilley	0
(2 balls, 6 min. Flicked one off his toe down to fine leg where 'keeper brought off a superb one-handed catch low to legside after rolling over twice)	
R. Shastri not out	3
(12 balls, 29 min)	
D. Doshi c Taylor b Dilley	0
(2 balls, 2 min. Flashed at one moving away and got an inner edge to be held low by 'keeper to his right)	
Extras: lb 5, nb 10 (8 by Dilley and 2 by Willis)	15
TOTAL	179
(287 minutes off 57 overs with 23×4)	

Fall of wickets:
1/1 (Srikanth 0, Gavaskar n.o. 1), 2/40 (Vengsarkar 17, Gavaskar n.o. 16), 3/70 (Vishwanath 8, Gavaskar n.o. 34), 4/104 (Patil 17, Gavaskar n.o. 49), 5/112 (Gavaskar 55, Kirti Azad n.o. 1), 6/164 (Kapil Dev 38, Kirti Azad n.o. 14), 7/164 (Kirti Azad 14, Kirmani n.o. 0), 8/166 (Madan Lal 0, Kirmani n.o. 4), 9/179 (Kirmani 12, Shastri n.o. 3).

Bowling

Willis	12-5-33-1
Botham	26-6-72-4
Dilley	13-1-47-4
Underwood	4-2-12-1

Pattern of scoring:
1st hour 40 runs 13 overs total 40/2;
2nd hour 36 runs 13 overs total 76/3;
3rd hour 36 runs 12 overs total 112/5;
4th hour 52 runs 13 overs total 164/7;
Last 29 minutes 15 runs 6 overs total 179;
50 runs in 77 minutes off 16.5 overs; 100 runs in 150 minutes off 32.5 overs; 150 runs in 218 minutes off 46.5 overs.
England batted for 53 minutes off 14 overs on the first day.

ENGLAND (1st innings)

G. A. Gooch b Madan Lal	2
(9 balls, 9 min. Missed one which cut in very sharply and took him by surprise as he was in two minds)	
G. Boycott c Srikanth b Kirti Azad	60
(193 balls, 219 min, 4×4. Turned the one off his hips straight to forward short leg)	
C. Tavare c Shastri b Doshi	56
(240 balls, 309 min, 5×4. A short of a length ball was pulled straight towards throat of the backward square leg fielder)	
D. T. Gower run out	5
(19 balls, 30 min, 1×4. Turned the one off his toes towards backward short leg. Attempted to run but good piece of fielding by the forward short leg fielder (K. Srikanth) and very smart flicking of ball by Kirmani resulted in a run out)	
K. W. R. Fletcher lbw b Doshi	15
(29 balls, 35 min, 1×4. Tried to sweep an armed delivery, missed it completely and was adjudged leg-before, he fell down while making the stroke)	
I. T. Botham c Gavaskar b Doshi	7
(16 balls, 20 min. While making a sweep short, the ball struck the gloves and ballooned in the first slip's hands)	
J. E. Emburey lbw b Doshi	0
(14 balls, 14 min. An armer was attempted to sweep, was missed and hence was adjudged leg-before)	
G. R. Dilley b Shastri	0
(7 balls, 10 min. Tried to block the ball, but it rolled back to the wicket to disturb the bails)	
R. W. Taylor not out	9
(39 balls, 52 min, 1×4)	
D. L. Underwood c Kirmani b Kapil	8
(29 balls, 31 min. Flashed at the one that cut away. Kirmani dived to his right and brought off a brilliant catch)	
R. G. D. Willis c Gavaskar b Doshi	
(7 balls, 14 min. Snicked a simple catch to the first slip without reaching to the pitch of the ball)	
Extras: (b 1, lb 2)	3
TOTAL	166
(380 minutes off 100.1 overs with 12 × 4)	

Fall of wickets:
1/3 (Gooch 2, Boycott 1 n.o.), 2/95 (Boycott 60, Tavare 32 n.o.), 3/105 (Gower 5, Tavare 37 n.o.), 4/131 (Fletcher 15, Tavare 48 n.o.), 5½143 (Botham 7, Tavare 48 n.o.), 6/146 (Tavare 56, Emburey 0 n.o.), 7/147 (Dilley 0, Taylor 0 n.o.), 9/163 (Underwood 8, Taylor 7 n.o.).

Bowling

Kapil Dev	22-10-29-1
Madan Lal	12-1-24-1
Doshi	29.1-12-39-5
Shastri	19-6-27-1
Patil	3-0-9-0
Kirti Azad	15-4-35-1

Pattern of scoring:
1st hour 26 runs off 15 overs; 2nd hour 29 runs off 16 overs; 3rd hour 41 runs off 19 overs; 4th hour 27 runs off 13 overs; 5th hour 29 runs off 16 overs; last 27 minutes 5 runs off 5.1 overs.
50 of the innings in 160 minutes off 38.4 overs; 100 of the innings in 227 minutes off 61.5 overs; 150 of the innings in 345 minutes off 94.1 overs; 160 of the innings in 380 minutes off 100.1 overs;
Boycott's 50 came in 165 minutes off 166 balls with 5×4; Tavare's 50 came in 269 minutes off 219 balls with 5×4.

S M. Gavaskar c Taylor b Botham (60 balls, 93 min, 1×4. Touched the one that lifted and moved away very late)	14
K Srikkanth run out (31 balls, 44 min. After making a stroke to gully he was found standing outside the crease, without the slightest intention of taking a run. Emburey, inding Srikkanth out of his crease, threw the ball at the wicket to break it, from the gully position)	13
D B. Vengsarkar c Tavare b Botham (12 balls, 16 min. Chased the one moving away fast and off the out edge gave a low catch towards the right of the first slip who tumbled after holding it)	5
G R. Vishwanath c Taylor b Botham (38 balls, 76 min, 4×4 On trying to drive the ball, that swung away late, gave an easy catch to the 'keeper off the thick out edge)	37
S M Patil lbw b Botham (20 balls, 24 min, 1×4 Was wrapped in the pad while playing a half-cocked to an over-pitched delivery which also kept low)	13
R Shastri lbw b Dilley (134 balls, 15 min, 2×4 Shuffled across to play the one on the on-side and was hit low down on the left pad to be adjudged leg before)	33
Kirti Azad lbw b Emburey (57 balls, 98 min, 1×4 Was in two minds to play and finally covered the wickets with his pads to allow the ball to hit them)	17
Kapil Dev lbw b Willis (50 balls, 88 min, 5×4 Missed completely a straight delivery, which hit him low on the front foot, he had come forward to hit hard, but failed to connect)	46
S M H Kirmani c Taylor b Emburey (7 balls, 4 min Swung towards square leg, but managed to stick it to the 'keeper down his legside)	0
Madan Lal not out (40 balls, 80 min, 2×4)	17
D R Doshi b Botham (28 balls, 35 min, 1×4 Over-pitched delivery was tried by Doshi to hit in the covers, missed it and the inswinger uprooted the stumps)	7
Extras b 8, lb 8, nb 9 (6 by Willis and 3 by Underwood)	
TOTAL 227 (365 minutes off 77 3 overs with 17×4)	

FALL OF WICKETS

1-19 (Srikkanth 5, Gavaskar n o 6), 2/24 (Vengsarkar 5, Gavaskar n o.6), 3-43 (Gavaskar 14, Vishwanath n o.11), 4/72 (Patil 13, Vishwanath n o 23) 5-90 (Vishwanath 37, Shastri n.o 3), 6/138 (Kirti Azad 17, Shastri n o 27), 7/154 (Shastri 33, Kapil Dev n.o 4), 8/157 (Kirmani 0, Kapil Dev n o 7), 9/203 (Kapil Dev 46, Madan Lal n o 5)

BOWLING

Willis	13-4-31
Botham	22 3-3-61-5
Dilley	18-5-61-1
Underwood	11-4-14-0
Emburey	13-2-35-2

PATTERN OF SCORING

First hour 24 runs off 13 4 overs, second hour 48 runs off 10.4 overs, third hour 34 runs off 13 4 overs, fourth hour 32 runs off 13 4 overs, fifth hour 38 runs off 13 2 overs, last half hour 26 runs off 5 1 overs

1st 35 minutes on the 4th day 24 runs off 7.2 overs

50 runs came in 95 minutes off 20 overs, 100 runs came in 169 minutes off 35 overs, 150 runs came in 265 minutes off 57.3 overs, 200 runs came in 323 minutes off 69 5 overs, 227 runs came in 365 minutes off 77 3 overs

G. A. Gooch c Kirmani b Kapil (3 balls, 2 min. Tried to play towards the over-pitched delivery and off the outer edge, the ball was caught by the 'keeper)	1
G. Boycott lbw b Madan Lal (23 balls, 40 min. Good length delivery came, kept low, and the batsman in a half-cock stroke was plumb lbw)	3
C Tavare c Gavaskar b Kapil (4 balls, 7 min Outswinger was missed while playing forward and the ball off the other edge went to Gavaskar at second slip)	0
D Gower lbw b Kapil (17 balls, 21 min, 4×4. Inswinger did not rise and when kept low came in, and Gower missed the line, was adjudged lbw)	20
K Fletcher lbw b Madan Lal (15 balls, 24 min Inswinger kept very low and the batsman missed the line of the ball and was lbw)	3
I Botham c Kirti Azad b Kapil (26 balls, 38 min, 2×4, 1×6 In an effort to be on top of bowler hit hard and gave a spoon catch in mid-off)	29
J Emburey c Gavaskar b Madan Lal (6 balls, 8 min, The batsman ran forward to hit the ball in the cover region and off the outer edge of bat the ball went to second slip)	1
R Taylor b Madan Lal (8 balls, 5 min Inswinger moved in the air and the batsman missed the line and was bowled to an over-pitched ball)	1
D Underwood not out (31 balls, 37 min, 2×4)	13
R G. D Willis c Kirmani b Kapil (14 balls, 27 min, 2×4 Tried to hit in the cover region and off the inner edge gave a catch to 'keeper)	13
Extras (b-4, lb-3, nb-2)	9
TOTAL (26 2 overs, 127 minutes, 12×4, 1×6)	102

Fall of wickets

1-2(Gooch 1, Boycott n.o 1), 2/4 (Tavare O, Boycott n o 3), 3-28 (Gower 20, Boycott n o 3), 4/29 (Boycott 3, Fletcher n o 0), 5-42 (Fletcher 3, Botham n o 8), 6/50 (Emburey 1, Botham n o 15), 7-73 (Botham 29, Dilley n o 8), 8/74 (Taylor 1, Dilley n o. 8), 9-75 (Dilley 9, Underwood n.o 0)

BOWLING

Kapil	13 2-0-70-5
Mandan Lal	12-6-23-5
Doshi	1-1-0-0

PATTERN OF SCORING

50 runs in 67 minutes off 13 overs, 100 runs in 122 minutes off 25 overs, 102 runs in 127 minutes off 26.2 overs

First hour 42 runs 12 overs, second hours 60 runs 13 overs, last 5 minutes 0 runs 1.2 overs

India won the match by 138 runs

Dramatic match

KEITH FLETCHER

THE wicket, to be absolutely honest, isn't that good This was my first thought I have played on far better Test wickets It was a good toss to win I would have liked to win it I don't know how long the wicket is going to last But obviously India's best chance to win is, if they bat first As long as they have got three spinners in the side, or have it the other way India has two left arm spinners, in the team So their best chance is to win the toss

This wicket always looked like it was going to turn We have mainly played five bowlers because I don't want somebody to get too tired at the start of the tour I know Ian Botham bowled a lot and he bowled superbly He has bowled well throughout the match and obviously he is a key figure in our side But from now on, I shall virtually rest him between Test matches But our team has five bowlers and five batsmen and one 'keeper Of course, ideally speaking, I would like to see more all rounders in the side, but we haven't got them so we have got to make the most of what we got To win a Test match, you have got to bowl the other side twice, which is why we picked five bowlers

The Indian side virtually picks itself They have the two medium pacers, the two spinners and also a lot of depth in the batting, though all of them are not that good What I am emphasising is that they can all get a few runs Kapil Dev has played well in this match so far I am not so certain how fit he is But he has performed well with the bat But I should think if his back injury improves he will start bowling better

The Indian team has some good players these days The batting line up is actually stronger than when I was last here Yes, they have some good cricketers The bowling, I don't know much about We will have to wait and see before I say anything on it

The first hour on the first day was important to us, because there was life in the wicket We could have, in fact, done better if we held a few half chances If one of them had stuck it could have made a difference But they weren't easy It was nice to get the opening batsman Srikkanth out cheaply He could be a dangerous player because he plays a few strokes Srikkanth intended to get his runs quickly but it was nice that we got him early I would have liked another wicket before lunch But the Indians lost three more in that session and it was really good going as far as we were concerned

The two half chances I referred to earlier were difficult catches One of them unfortunately came to me Gavaskar was the batsman I dived to my left and just got my thumb to it The other one went to Gooch off Vengsarkar's bat You ought to think that you are going to catch one out of three such catches

I think Srikkanth is nervous before every innings because of the way he moves around and walks If I were to judge him I would say he is a nervous man

I was very pleased with the way Bob Willis and Graham Dilley bowled Both bowled quick right through the match Ian Botham was superb on the first morning He maintained it all through the day He could have easily got six or seven wickets Or eight perhaps with a little bit of luck That's how well he bowled

Gavaskar got stuck in it was not the best he has ever played He had a little bit of luck But he is a true batsman He hung around And above all what he did was that he did not give his wicket away In fact he did a good job for India in the end

Botham bowled all through the afternoon and there was this incident when he was warned for running on the wicket We also had problems with Willis and Dilley having drinks out at fine leg It's permissible in England and it seemed a bit strange to us that the umpires stopped it If you don't allow this you are encouraging the fielders To have the leave more often is obviously silly There's nothing wrong in having a drink on the out field I think Sunil and I will have to get together and sort it out I wouldn't mind if the Indian side did it as long as it does not stop the game

Until tea we picked up the odd wicket here and there I don't think any of the Indians played particularly well Kapil, of course, got a few runs and proved an exception The good runs he got was slightly annoying for us Eventually, we got India out for

Gower is run out when Kirman knocks off the bails from a Srikkanth throw



hat I [illegible]. It was a bit of a blow to lose Graham Gooch that evening. But that's the way it goes.

The ball was swinging in the air and the wicket seamed on the first day. It was a good wicket, for seamers. It was having variable bounce. The wicket wasn't flat, it was undulating. You are, therefore, always going to get variable bounce, depending on which side the slope is. Like I said earlier, it was not a very good Test wicket. Botham was bowling well. He was relying on the outswinger and the odd ball moving off the seam. He was attacking on or outside the off-stump.

I WAS pleased with the way Boycott and Tavare batted on the second day They might have seemed a bit slow to the Indians. But at that stage, I was looking for England to bat two days, and if possible get a lead of 150 runs Nothing like it. This was what I felt Obviously, Boycott and Tavare thought likewise.

After these two got out we had David Gower unfortunately run out and it didn't help. I think our middle order should have got a few more runs. In fact, a lot more runs Unfortunately, this is cricket, you lose wickets when you don't expect to

The Indian spinners bowled well. The odd ball was turning Not a great deal but the turn was there all right But I do not think it was turning enough for Dilip Doshi to get five wickets. Those figures, to be honest, flatter him a bit. I don't think he bowled all that well

Tavare got out after playing for five hours He was out sweeping Chris accumulates runs with that shot It's like batsmen who cut and hook. You get some runs with it You have got to work out the percentage. If the number of runs you get with that shot outweighs the number of times you get out then you have got to play that shot

I was disappointed that so many of us got out playing the sweep shot but I must admit I have played so much in [illegible] and a lot of runs. A few of the Indian batsmen play it as well.

Over the years, I have found that Indian umpires don't give out on the front foot, which I think is right. Having said that I am not criticising the umpires, but why question their authority

We had decided to bowl to a plan on or outside the stump, hoping that there would be a catch sooner or later at the slips. That was the way we went about the job. I don't think that has anything to do with shrewd captaincy. To do this you have got to have good bowlers, particularly seamers But Gavaskar handled his bowlers well and competently placed his fielders. He did a good job.

Shastri bowled and batted rather well in the second innings and showed great promise It's very early to judge the Indian bowlers. But on that day Doshi, Azad and Shastri bowled well. Due credit to Gavaskar, they did a good job But I don't think we batted particularly well.

On the second day, the wicket was turning a fair bit—much more than on the first day We are hoping that the wicket will get slower and slower. If that's the case it would give us more chance of winning

THE third day followed the same pattern as of the first, except that the Indians lost four wickets before lunch. In that situation we were hoping to bowl India out for 150 odd. But once again Vishwanath played a few good shots after lunch. I think he will agree that it was a fairly rash shot to which he got out But he played his game.

But Botham once again bowled magnificently. Young Dilley bowled well without much luck. Kapil saved India from being bowled out for 160 He has scored runs in this match which is fairly well considering the small totals He has served India well

The wicket on the third day turned less than it did on the first and second day But we are hoping the wicket will get slower, and give us a chance of win It's a fifty-fifty chance

When we were 95 for one in the first innings, I was looking for a score of over 300 It was disappointing that we didn't Had we done it we would have been in a winning position But cricket is a funny game as the second day has proved When Boycott and Tavare were there, if you had said that Eng-



Botham hugs Taylor after catching Gavaskar



Vengsarkar caught by Tavare off Dilley after the ball bounces of Botham s hands

land would be out by 160 you would have got fairly high odds at that time.

The reason, I did not bowl John Emburey earlier than I did on the third afternoon, was because I anticipated that Azad would play him well and I was a bit concerned Had Kapil and Kirti attacked Emburey and perhaps took 40 runs of him quickly by launching into the bowling, that would have meant a lot of runs in such a tight game. I was just hoping that we were going to pick up more wickets till tea time In the end, I obviously had to bring John on I don't think it was a bit late. But things didn't work as we hoped it would.

Bob Taylor was brilliant behind the stumps, taking some superb catches The one he took to dismiss Madan Lal was really great You are not going to see any better than that

Bob Willis was injured He had a stiff neck so I couldn't bowl him as much as I liked This helped the Indians to extend their innings If I could have bowled Bob 15 overs instead of the nine it might have produced an altogether different result

I was bowling Graham Dilley and Willis in short spells because they are quick bowlers I don't want to tire them out I want them to bowl fast whenever I call on them Everybody kept going on and on It's a good team performance

I DON'T know if Sunil used any roller on the fourth morning And, to be honest, if he did which one? I did not use the roller and that was mainly because there were quite a few cracks all over the wicket and I was sure that the cracks would open up if the roller was used and the wicket would crumble a bit to take more spin

Once play got under way, I was a bit disappointed to see India score another 24 runs But obviously, the ball was old and soft and it was quite easy just to block The seamers were bowling and if you blocked their deliveries you could pick up a few runs But it would have been nice if we could have dismissed them earlier But we could not I still thought 240 was within our range—a little bit too high, but yet we could do it

Unfortunately, for us Kapil Dev's opening overs were very good Graham Gooch got a good delivery and so did David Gower Tavare fell to another clever piece of bowling Thus, we just happened to lose quite a few wickets in the early part of our innings The top three batsmen of the side were back

Madan Lal got Geoff Boycott and myself with balls that kept low But having said that, I wasn't all that pleased with the way we batted I think it would have been nice if we had got stuck in and played more on the front foot as the wicket was keeping low

Really from then on it was just a matter of mopping up When Ian Botham was out, I didn't think we had any chance left But up until then I still felt we had a chance When he went, it was then just a matter of time

Madan Lal bowled well, but not as good as Kapil Dev The wicket was difficult to play on because of the unseen bounce and the odd balls that were keeping low and bouncing a bit So, it wasn't the easiest of wickets to play on I am very disappointed that India won But, as I said, there are still 25 more days of Test cricket left and, with a bit of luck, we have got to play better than we did in this Test. I feel we still are a better team than India But India played well

Throughout this Test match there have been a number of bad decisions Both umpires made a number of errors Both sides suffered as a result

Boycott and Tavare have got good technique but this wicket isn't easy to play on Chris got a beauty in the second innings Anybody can get a good ball early and if you get it early I am afraid you are out Maybe, if it comes later in the innings you can avoid it The ball that got Boycott kept low He was half forward when it hit him and seamed back as well He did everything right, but it hit him on the pads I was dismissed in the same way

It's very easy to be wise after the event and say we should have played an extra batsman instead of a bowler But it wasn't a good Test wicket to play on as it turned out It played worse than we thought it would So if you are getting into a Test with the idea of winning it, you have to have enough bowlers The batsmen usually get enough runs and you hope they do I don't think, to be honest, we batted all that well right through the match, regardless of the standard of umpiring In the next few days obviously we are going to talk about it and try to sort it out

There was something missing in our batting I don't think we applied ourselves properly in the second innings Under those conditions we should have played forward a bit more than we did I was as guilty as anybody because I was out playing back

The wicket, in fact, was no different when Madan Lal and Doshi were batting. The only difference was that the Indian bowlers had a new ball, while we were having a soft and old ball and that was why our bowlers were not very effective and the two batsmen added 24 valuable runs When we got the new ball it was all over.



Srikkanth caught Fletcher (not in pic) off Willis

Boycott after scoring 50



Fantastic Victory

SUNIL GAVASKAR

1st day



IT was 95 per cent England's day the five per cent that went India's way was when Madan Lal knocked back Graham Gooch's middle stump to put them one wicket down at the end of the first day's play. Such a situation should never have arisen in the first place for having won the toss I expected our team to take maximum advantage of having to bat first

The wicket had a bit of an uneven bounce Still I think that all of us with the exception of Kapil were very much unsteady and let the English bowlers dominate us. The beginning was not good with Srikkanth going for a duck. He popped up a simple catch which Fletcher had to take with the sun in his eye Srikkanth has this tendency of going forward before the ball is delivered and every time the ball is dug in short he finds it just that bit difficult to get back Still I tried to console him by saying that there was another illustrious example in the same Indian team who had started off his career by scoring a zero but has scored more than 5,000 runs—that is Gundappa Vishwanath

Dilip Vengsarkar looked in good nick as he has been in the last few first-class matches that we have played and it was a bit of a surprise to see him get out to an overpitched delivery from Graham Dilley which swung a bit and Dilip shaping to play the ball on the on-side, the on-side was vacant at that time, there was no mid-on, I think just turned himself a little bit open and the catch went to Botham very fast to his left and Botham knocked it up for Chris Tavare in the first slip to complete the catch

Vishwanath, who came in next, looked as if he was settling down. And played a glorious square drive to the cover fence off Dilley. Vishwanath fell to Botham, who bowled a perfectly-pitched outswinger on the leg and middle stump and Vishy was a good enough player to get an edge to it and the ball flew to Geoff Boycott at third slip All this while Botham had been bowling extremely well dropping the ball just on or outside the off stump and he had got me playing a no shot and I was lucky to see fourth slip not being able to fasten on to a ball which travelled at some speed That was a lucky escape for me Though I got beaten outside the off stump by Botham a few times after that. I like getting beaten because that brings out the best of one's concentration, I think When things start going your way you become a little over-confident and your concentration is not the same So, every time Botham beat me I found new reserves in concentration coming out

Sandeep Patil started off well again like Dilip and Vishy had been before him And he too was a victim of a very, very good outswinger from Botham almost the same kind that got Vishy out only this time Sandeep got beaten by the ball which beat his bat to find his right leg in front of the wicket.

Vishwanath caught Boycott bowled Botham



Kirti Azad, who came at the fall of Sandeep's wicket, looked confident enough as if he was settling down for a big score but before that I went being caught behind by Taylor off another Botham outswinger This was a ball which wasn't as good as the ones that accounted for Vishwanath and Patil. But you can't argue with the score book It's all there in the score book Gavaskar caught Taylor bowled Botham. Well the other way of looking at it is that there were some better deliveries bowled by Botham to me and I was fortunate to get away with it

Kapil Dev came after that and only he can play that kind of innings that he eventually played. He played his shots without any inhibitions and almost on the stroke of tea he got out caught behind off Botham again to be followed by Kirti Azad in the following over and that really set us back

At 164 for 7, there was very little that Kirmani, Madan Lal or Shastri could have done Madan was out to a brilliant leg side catch off Dilley by wicketkeeper Taylor and Kirmani got a ball that really shot through along the ground When a ball at Dilley's pace shoots through along the ground there is precious little any batsman in the world can do about it and Kirti was, therefore, unlucky. 179 all out is, therefore, not a very impressive looking score but Derek Underwood managed to turn a few in the last couple of overs Dilip Doshi also turned a couple and with the ball at one end keeping low, at the other end the wicket playing a little funny because at that end some of Kapil's deliveries have really climbed One delivery in particular to Geoff Boycott beat him and went through his bat and pad and went on top of the bails. Well, that's the way the luck of the game goes We have not had the breaks and just hoped that the second day would be our day

2nd day

If it was England's day yesterday, today was hundred per cent India's, though at one time, particularly in the session before the luch interval, it did not seem so Boycott and Tavare are the two batsmen who can stay at the wicket without being bothered if runs are not coming But, in a way, on this track that kind of batting helped us because we had the reserves particularly in spin bowling, and spin bowlers grow more dangerous the more they bowl So even though Boycott and Tavare stuck around and negotiated our new ball attack, not without alarm of course, we always had the three spinners in reserve to come back strongly And that precisely is what happened

[illegible] before lunch because Ravi Shastri and Doshi had to be given a little longer spell during the pre-lunch session after the quick bowlers had bowled with an almost new ball. In the only over that Kirti bowled before lunch, he managed to extract a great deal of turn, even more than Doshi and Shastri had been able to get. Kirti is a cutter of the ball. He runs in like a medium pace bowler—he has got that long run-up as well. He does not flight the ball, but just hits it On a wicket which is responsive to spin he can be really a difficult proposition The danger, of course, in that kind of bowling is that there cannot be too much control. But today Kirti bowled extermely well did not bowl short and if ever he did, the wicket was not quick enough, or bouncy enough for the batsmen to go back



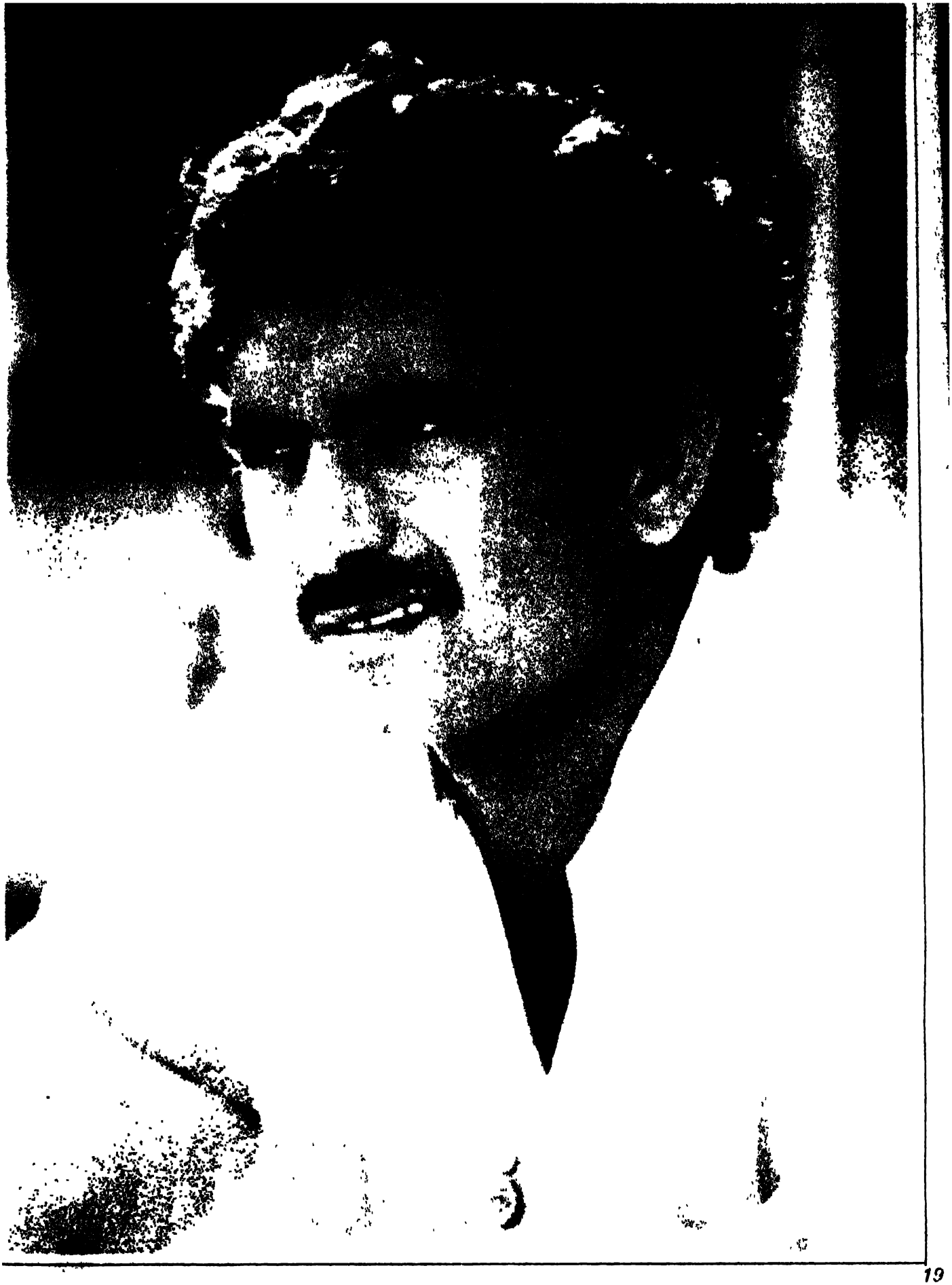
Willis drops Kirti Azad off his own bowling

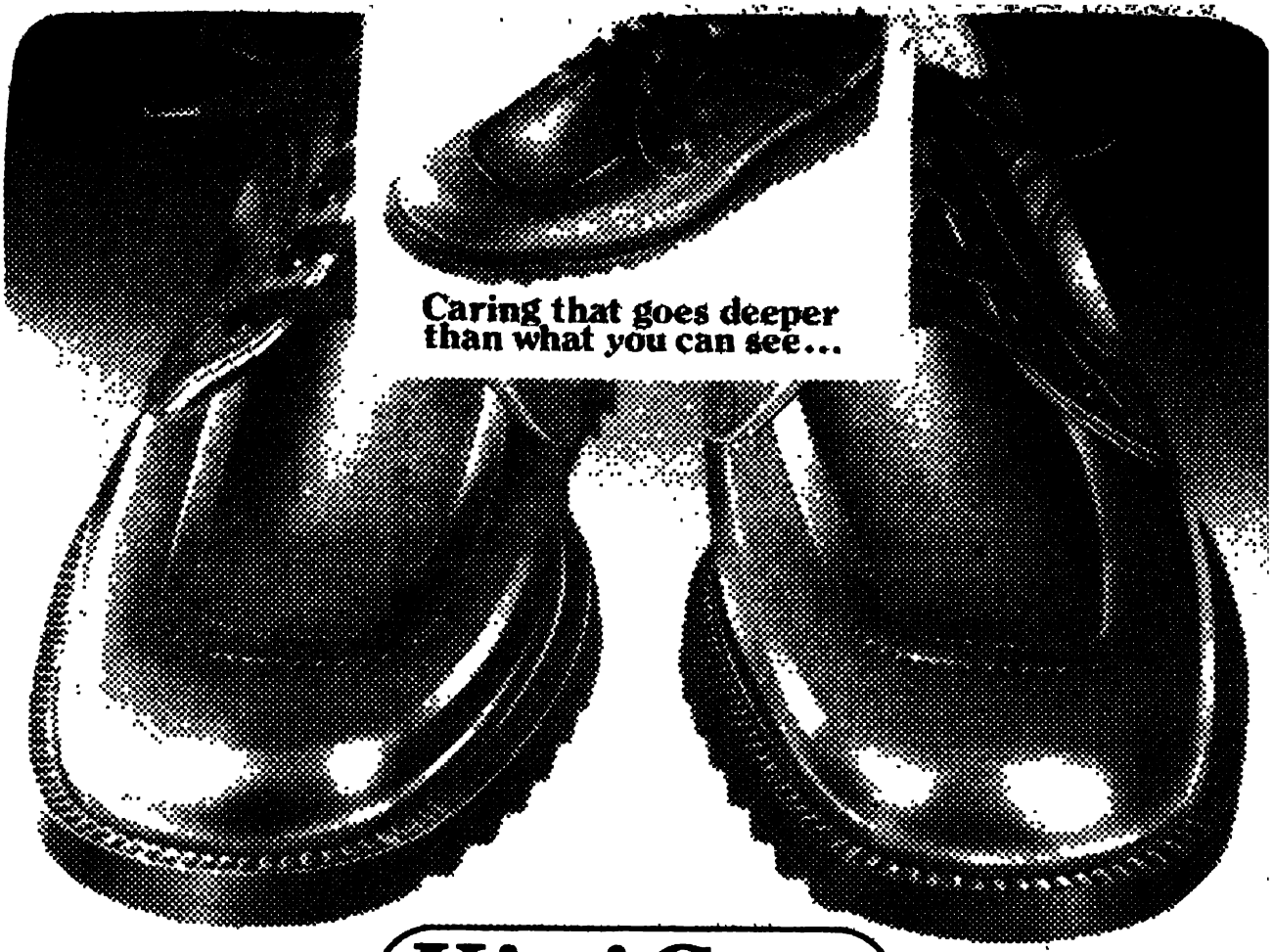
Gooch drop Vengsarkar off Willis



and take advatage of it And, in any case, with the tendency of the English batsmen to go forward, almost predeterminedly, it was a bit difficult for them to take advantage of the shortish balls that Kirti bowled He was the one who gave us the breakthrough we were looking for, when he went round the wicket and delivered one to Boycott who edged it to give Srikkanth his first catch and Kirti his first wicket in Test cricket It was a valuable wicket. Boycott got another 50 to his credit in Test cricket and was looking fairly solid I think he enjoys batting for long spells, and this was exactly what he was set on doing. His is the wicket that we wanted

Gower came later, and he looked a little surprised by the turn that Kirti managed to get. The first ball he faced was almost a gift from Kirti, which he slashed to the third-man boundary for a four. But thereafter, Kirti managed to extract turn and bounce from the wicket and when Gower played a ball off his pads to short fine-leg, and set off for a run which was not there,





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Boycott in action

Srikkanth, moving very quickly from his position, threw it to the wicket keeper, but there was no question of his being run out.

Fletcher, who looked much more confident than the others, drove Kapil with nice-looking shot to the off boundary But he was not comfortable against the spinners. Ravi Shashtri, particularly, troubled him much with his bounce, and Doshi, at the other end, was a slower version. So, Fletcher was not really able to come to grips with the turning ball He tried to sweep a straight one from Doshi and was palpably leg before. He was surprised because he expected the ball to move down the leg side But the ball, after pitching, turned a little bit and he was clearly leg before Next one was Botham

Botham is a difficult person to set the field because he plays shots that are not in any coaching manual And you obviously have to be careful about setting fields for him.. We tried to keep one fielder at deeper short fine-leg to take.care of his sweeps. Eventually, he tried to take that shot and the ball went off his glove, took the back of his bat and ballooned up in the air for me to get a very simple catch at first slip

I was standing at slip as Vishy was down with a stomach ailment he had a lot of discomfort during the previous night. He was there for the morning session, but, thereafter his pain became unbearable and he had to take a pain-killing injection Even that was of little help

Here again, Ian Botham was unhappy about the decision But there was not a shred of doubt in the minds of the fielders who were in front of the batsman Dilip Vengsarkar at silly point and Srikkanth at forward short-leg had a perfect view Even Kirmani seemed sure that the ball had hit his glove before lobbing up to me

Thereafter it became a procession Chris Tavare was sweeping towards the square-leg region and was eventually caught by Shashtri. Though Tavare played for over four hours, he never looked like tearing us apart—and that was to our advantage Emburey, like Fletcher, tried to sweep one from Doshi and was leg before Dilley played Shashtri to his own stumps with enough force to knock the bails off And then I brought Kapil Dev just when Taylor and Underwood appeared to be settling down for a partnership Kapil Dev succeeded mainly due to Kirmani's brilliant effort when he dived to his right to snap up a catch. Willis was the last man to fall He has a peculiar way of angling his bat when he plays to the off side

I was surprised to see Willis stand in protest against such an obvious decision. If such things are going to be repeated, this will be a difficult series for the umpires

I am not very happy with the attitude of some of the Englishmen towards the umpires. All I can say is that in the first two days, umpiring had been good and if there is any suspicion in the minds of the English players, they should remove it straightaway. I have been on three tours of England and we were not very happy about the umpiring that we saw I don't see why the Englishmen should come to the wicket with the presumption that the Indian umpiring was going to be bad. It is about time everybody realised that umpiring mistakes would take place. And it is the British Press which keeps harping on it, as if mistakes do not happen in their backyard The less we stare at the umpires the better it will be for all concerned And certainly then the series can be played with the great deal of goodwill that we have now I hate to see this goodwill, which is mainly there because a number of players have played against each other erupted by doubts about umpiring

3rd day



THERE was very little life in the wicket and yet we ended up the day 203 for 7 which certainly wasn't the kind of score that I would have liked Still it's a lot better because at one stage we were only 137 for 8 when Kapil and Madan in the last stage on the third day added 16 valuable runs before Kapil got out in the last over of the day

It's been uncanny how we have lost a valuable wicket prior to the drinks or lunch interval or tea interval in this game But this happened right through on the day and we seemed to have lost a wicket just before a break which meant that the England bowlers could come back after the interval and attack the new player

In the beginning, there was a much more confident Srikkanth than he was in the first innings He was timing the ball well and he has this habit of wandering about as if in a daze and not because it's a Test match but only because it's habit It has been noticed that while playing the ball he walks out of the crease in a daze and Emburey, who was very alert threw down the wicket when he found Srikkanth out of the crease

It is understandable if a certain lack of temperament or technique and some nervousness is there when a person makes his Test debut, but it is easy to understand how one can be wandering about particularly when it is so vital that the team be given a good start? I think this is even worse than getting run out In fact, he was run out But what I mean is that if it was due to a misunderstanding between the batsmen because of wrong calling Anyway, with that wicket down it brought in Dilip Vengsarkar, and Botham bowled him a ball which pitched up and Dilip tried to drive I don't really think he put the full weight behind the shot and he only tickled it and Chris Tavare dropped




IAN TERRENCE BOTHAM
NIGEL BHATTACHARYA

the slip

Vishy came in after the drinks interval which was taken immediately after Vengsarkar's dismissal. Vishy was under severe pressure, but it's at such stages that the best in Vishwanath comes out and though it was not exactly the best it was certainly the best as far as Vishy has been concerned in the last few games He played some superb shots and showed how stupid it is for people to ask for his sacking from the team His poor form in the previous series has been a source of worry not only to him but also to the other team members and to the cricket lovers in India But I feel this little innings of 37 have turned the corner for him He has spared no effort to try and regain his form He has lost a lot of weight In fact, he is looking far more trimmer than ever at any stage over the past five years



Umpire Ramaswamy and Fletcher inspect the damaged spot while Botham looks on

Gavaskar caught Taylor bowled Botham for 55



Before that I had fallen to Botham caught behind by Taylor, just two balls before that I played forward to Botham and found that my glove got entangled with the chain I wear and it broke This chain has been with me right through my career and the only other time it broke off was when I was playing in England in 1971 and the result was quite similar to the one here John Snow that time had knocked out my middle stump This time the only consolation about my two dismissals here was that they have been fully due to the credit of the bowler and not to the looseness of stroke on my part. I was playing much more confidently in this innings than the first. There was a lot of pressure because it was the first Test match and the first innings but I was much more confident in the second knock and also felt that I was batting much better.

Sandeep Patil, who followed me, played some good shots before he fell to a slightly casual stroke That's when he tried to flick a ball to leg, missed and was leg before to Botham on the stroke of lunch. It was at this stage during the lunch time that I was pondering over promoting Ravi Shastri because I did not want—at the same time—two aggressive players at the wicket and both who were under pressure. One would have been Kirti Azad and the other, Vishwanath That would have been Kirti's normal number so I sent in Ravi Shastri, who has probably a more mature head than many other senior people in the team He responded to the promotion in a most revealing manner, playing straight down the line and kept within his limitations and not missing scoring opportunities Instead of scoring boundaries he was looking for the ones and twos which is just the kind of thing that should be done in Test cricket

In the meanwhile, Vishwanath had fallen after that little innings. Kirti stuck around again till tea time before Emburey claimed him with one that

turned in that little bit and Kirti not offering a stroke was leg before Kapil and Shastri played some very good cricket and took the score along and it was unfortunate that Shastri fell leg before to the ball that kept low from Dilley Many thought that the ball would have gone down the leg side but the umpires are the best judges and we have to accept their decision

Kirmani followed soon after, trying to glance one and with the faintest edge Bob Taylor claimed that leg side catch and that brought in Madan to join Kapil At this stage Kapil decided to play his normal aggressive game and he played a variety of thrilling shots, having the crowd on its feet Again, it was the last over before tumps that brought about Kapil's downfall who fell leg before to Willis the ball was tending to keep low and Kapil paid the penalty for playing it on the back foot

We were now 216 runs ahead and with the last pair in obviously any runs added by the last wicket will definitely be handy, but what I would like to mention is that we have scored the runs and England have yet to score them

This will be the fourth consecutive Test we will be finishing inside the stipulated time of five days Unless there is a big stand between Madan and Dilip Doshi I know Doshi can bat professionally if he wants to and we all know Madan can play some very good shots

All I can say is that it was a day where fortunes fluctuated both England's way and ours What a pity that the Bombay crowd has hardly been able to see good batsmanship Wickets have fallen so quickly that a Bombayman must be a disappointed person after having waited so long for the Test to begin This must be a disappointing performance indeed

4th day



WHAT a tremendous victory—dismissing the England side in less than 30 overs, and just a little over two hours, without using our spinners except for the one over by Dilip Doshi! It was a great feat I did not, and I am sure the other members of the Indian side too, expect the victory to come by as big a margin as we finally achieved, and as quickly as it happened We were confident at the start of the day's play And our confidence was given a boost by the runs added by Madan Lal and Doshi Dilip has come to India's rescue with his batting quite often, though he still gets out in a disappointing manner

Madan Lal played sensibly and took the runs when they were available and when the target was heightened by 24 runs It was obviously just the kind of charging the Indian team needed in the dressing room—to go out and have a go at the English batsmen

Kapil started it, having Gooch caught behind and then followed up in the next over by having Chris Tavare



Botham



caught in the slips. At the other end Madan's odd ball was keeping low, but he varied his movement very intelligently. In the first couple of overs he tended to bowl short which gave Gower and Boycott the opportunity to pick some runs. But from the third over onwards he banged on the target. He was pitching it and doing just that little bit, moving it both ways to keep the batsman guessing.

On this wicket, unless you played right forward, there was always the chance of being leg before with the ball keeping low, and this is exactly what Madan managed to do when he struck Boycott half forward. There was no doubt that Geoff was leg before. Madan followed that up by bagging Fletcher, who has a tendency to move across, and this time, the incoming ball beat his bat and hit him just above the ankle of his back foot. No doubt about this decision either.

Just before that David Gower had fallen to Kapil. Gower has a habit of shuffling a bit and then neither plays forward nor back. And Kapil put him in a lot of trouble during the 1979 series when he got him leg before two or three times and missed another closely in the Lord's Test. Just before he was dismissed, Gower survived a confident appeal for caught behind when he tried to glance Kapil.

Emburey who was promoted up the order tried to play a little differently. He tried to step forward and play Madan from outside the crease as the ball was keeping low. But Madan managed to move one ball away and Emburey edged it to the slip.

Botham, in the meantime, decided to play the kind of game he knows best and that is to attack. And he played some good shots, one square cut off Kapil and in the first over after lunch a straight massive hit into the stands for a six. Kapil had his revenge in the next over when Botham tried to repeat this shot and Kirti Azad at mid off made no mistake to take the catch. With that wicket gone it was all over for England and Madan chipped in with two beautiful deliveries—one that knocked back Graham Dilley's middle stump, and one that beat and bowled Bob Taylor.

Willis and Underwood defied the attack for some time and showed us that if the proper application was there England could have reached the target. But I think credit should go fully to our bowlers for the way they bowled. Kapil, we all know, is a world class performer and a team man to the core. In fact you can't find a better one than Kapil.

Madan, after a long absence from Test cricket, had a lot to prove. And he did that wonderfully. Here is another man who will do just about anything possible for the team and his bowling performance was tremendous.

Our fielding again was of first rate. Patil was not on the field because of a stomach upset and that is also a remarkable feature of this Test. Six of us



Kapil

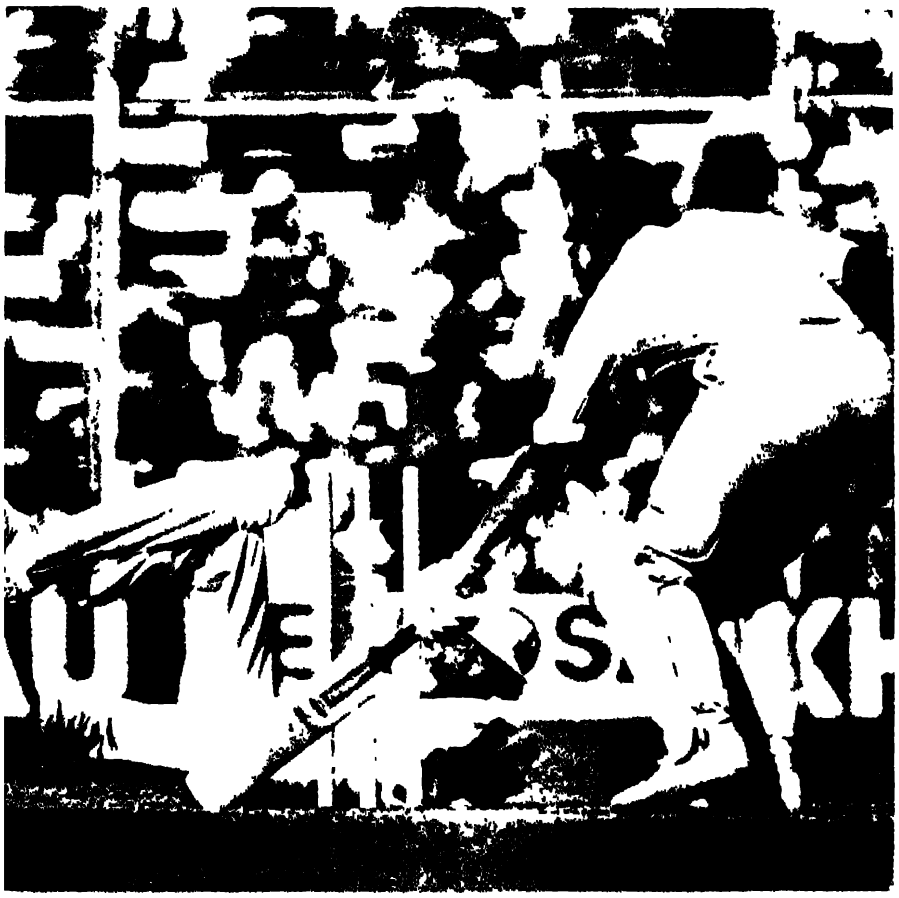
in the team were down with upset stomachs on the first morning. Kirmani, the night before, was unfit to play as he had a very bad attack of gastro-enteritis.

But, we all were on the field except Sandeep Ghulam Parkar substituted for him and added an extra edge to our fielding. Parkar is an excellent fielder.

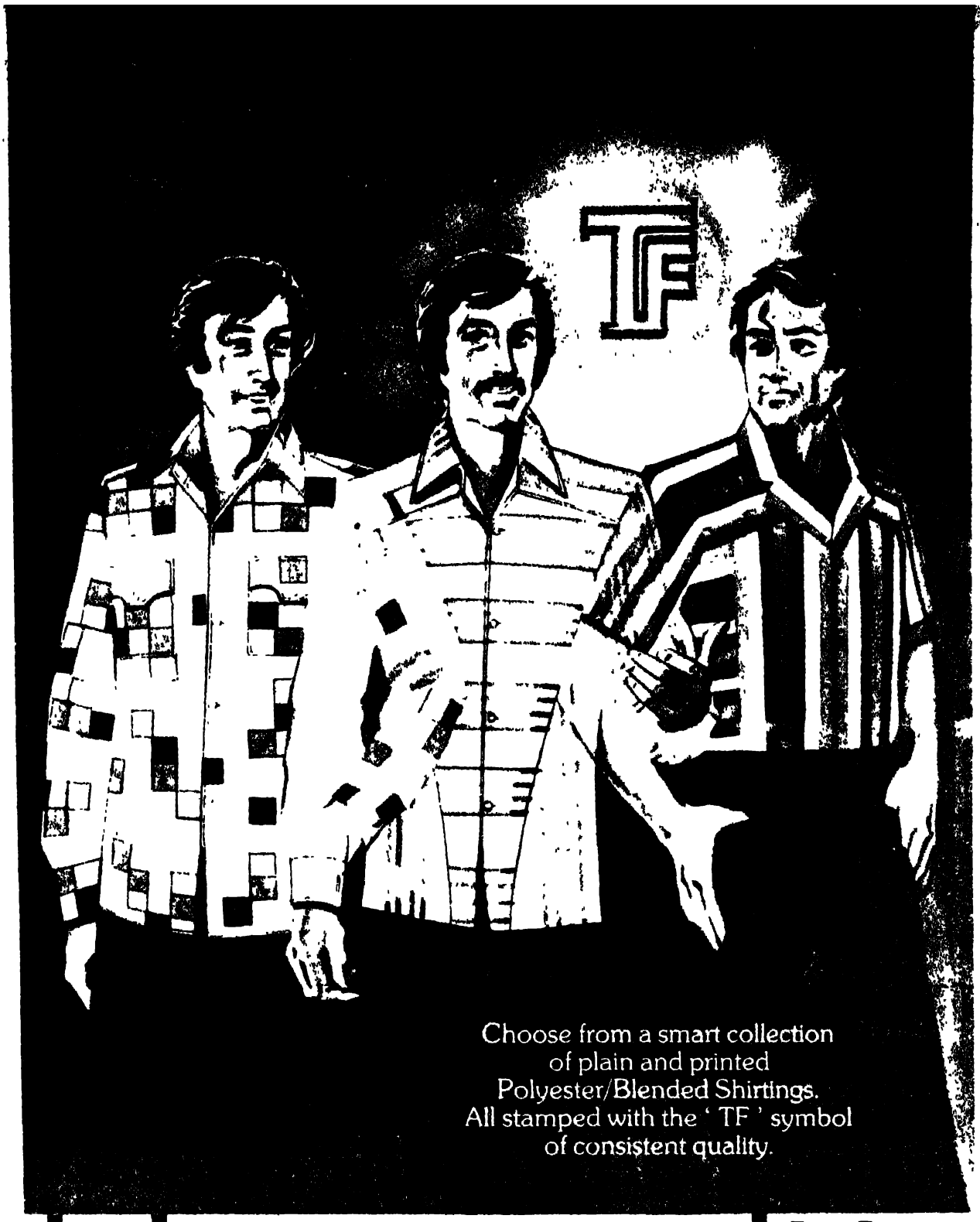
Although we have won the first Test, the batsmen in the side have to pull their weight in the next Test matches against England. It was entirely our bowlers' victory and the batsmen in the side have to gird up their loins to get big scores and occupy the crease much longer than they have been doing so far. We have only a week, before the second Test starts at Bangalore, to sort out our problems and organise our technique. But what is most important is that the batsmen should set themselves to a target of remaining at the crease for hours instead of going for the runs. I think the longer they can stay at the wicket the more runs will come India's way. And in our climate—the heat and humidity—the longer the Indian batsmen stay at the wicket, the more is the chance of the English bowlers' getting tired.

Bangalore normally is a good flat wicket and the batsmen should look forward to the Test match there. Bowlers have dominated at Bombay, may be the batsmen will dominate at Bangalore. Well, it's not too far.

Tavare in time from being run out



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NAI DUNIA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Punjab Police win the title

A NUMBER of top teams of the country, like Punjab Police, BSF, Railway Football Club, BNR, George Telegraph, EME (Secunderabad), ASC (Hyderabad), Western Railway (Bombay), CRPF (Neemuch), Delhi Police, RAC (Bikaner) and Western Command Airforce (Delhi), took part in this year's Nai Dunia Football tournament, held in Indore recently, which is the most prestigious competition of Madhya Pradesh.

In a most frustrating final, Punjab Police, who did not impress the Indorites till the semi-final stage, completely outplayed BSF throughout the 90 minutes to win the handsome trophy However, they could not manage more than one goal which proved to be the match-winner But the score is not the true indication of the one-sided nature of the match Punjab Police entered the ground with undaunted and irrepressible spirit while on the other hand, BSF seemed to be suffering from a crisis of confidence

But, BSF started with a bang, with linkman Kesho Kripal (skipper) giving an immaculate through-pass to centre-forward Pradip Kumar, who finding himself blocked, passed the ball on to right-winger, ex-international Nand Kishore, who had only to tap the ball home But he failed As if to make up for this mistake, Nand Kishore in the next minute, booted the ball to the corner of the goal-post on receiving a pass from left-winger Balkumar, but the Punjab Police custodian Jhalman Singh made a remarkable save, leaping high and fisting the ball over the post for a corner

Thereafter, it was all Punjab Police, who set the pace of the game, with their 24-year-old right in Balwinder and 21-year old right-winger Jagdev playing with beautiful combination and amazing rapidity A Guru Nanak University boy, Jagdev, is one of the fastest wingers in the country today, and Balwinder one of the the finest dribblers and opportunists Jagdev does not only run along the line and lobs to others, but cuts in quickly to either shoot home or send a good pass to the danger zone for others to score. Balwinder, likewise, is also a dashing player, who, being a right-inner, dribbles beautifully, but, unlike the Bengal forwards who use only short-passes sometimes wasting time with square-passes and even back passes, catches the opposing defence on the wrong-foot by suddenly switching over to long-passes from short-ones Moreover, he has a powerful finish to score

The forwards and likemen of both teams interchanged positions frequently This requires tremendous stamina and speed, which were the forte of Punjab Police. In the 28th minute of the first half, Balwinder passed to centre-forward Darshan who in turn sped away to the right flank and from there gave a neat pass back to Balwinder who shot home from close a powerful first timer which left the BSF custodian Charanjit helpless Being 0-1 down, BSF should have come into the attack But, that did not happen. On the contrary Punjab Police continued to put pressure on their opponents and switched over to man-to-man marking, never allowing BSF to dominate the proceedings

After the breather, Jagdev shot a powerful grounder which went inches past the second-pole After this, the BSF right-winger Nand Kishore did

Punjab Police skipper Inspal receiving the Nai Dunia trophy from the MP Chief Minister Arjun Singh (right)





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nothing materialised. And, just eight minutes before the end, Nand Kishore missed the chance of his lifetime to score with the Punjab Police custodian falling out of position.

Throughout the final, ex-international Gurdev Singh was sitting beside the sidelines. The glittering trophy was presented to the Punjab Police by the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. Arjun Singh.

Commenting on the victory, Punjab Police Manager, Mr. Dharam Singh, ex-international hockey full-back, said: "We played according to our plan. We had decided not to allow the BSF forwards, especially Nand Kishore to take the initiative. He was closely marked by our stoppers, Jaspal and Joginder. We had also decided to interchange positions and to change the pace of the game I think Jagdev, Balwinder and custodian Jhalman Singh are promising Indian prospects."

In the semi-final encounters, Punjab Police easily beat BNR, Calcutta, 3-0 and BSF (five times winner of the Durand Cup), outclassed Western Railway (Bombay) 4-1. In the first match, Punjab Police likeman Balbir shot at the goal from a distance of 40 yards, and the ball, after landing before the BNR custodian, swerved into the net The second goal was scored by

After the breather, Ravi added one more to his tally to make it 3-0 for Punjab. One must say that BNR got ample chances to score but their most dangerous forward Vir Babu missed as many as two sitters. In fact, poor shooting and short-passing were the reasons for the failure of the Bengal teams who greatly disappointed the large crowd at Indore. The Bengal teams were easily outplayed by the North Indian and Western Indian teams. Western Railway (Bombay), the giant-killers of this tournament shocked the much-fancied Railway Football Club, Calcutta, 4-0 in the quarter-finals. However, RFC were playing without the services of three of their regular players. But this was no reason for giving a lack-lustre display Their star stopper-back Balai Chakroborty seemed to be over the hill, and their reserve custodian Kiran Roy guarded the post like a novice. Before the breather, winger Shankar Ghosh missed a sitter in front of the Western Railway goal.

It must be admitted that the Western Railway forwards, especially D'sena and Prahlad, both called for the all-India coaching camp at Bombay, put up outstanding performances throughout the competition

The reason for Hyderabad's ouster might have been the absence of four of their star players who played here last

When Punjab Police played their first match against Jamshedpur Youth Club and were on the verge of being knocked out of the tournament till 15 minutes before the end, no one could have visualised that Punjab Police would, in the end, be the title-holders. For, in that match, the Youth Club shot into the lead through left-out Arun Chakroborthy. Till the 55th minute, Punjab Police could not equalise. It was at this stage that Gurdev came into the ground and immediately sent a long pass to right-out Jagdev who sprinted down, cut in, dribbled right into the penalty-area and shot home the equaliser. Just one minute before the final whistle, Balwinder scored the match-winner. Punjab Police also had to cross a stiff hurdle in the quarters against RAC (Bikaner) whose ex-international Magan Singh, now 38, is still as agile as ever. Till half-time it was all RAC in the Punjab Police territory with centre-half Rehman giving an outstanding performance and forwards Riyasat Ali and Magan Singh keeping the Police defence busy. But, once again, after the breather, Gurdev Singh was brought in and he gave a long through pass to Jagdev who made it 1-0 for his team. Thereafter, Punjab Police only struggled to hang on to the lead.

SUJEET MOHANTY, Indore



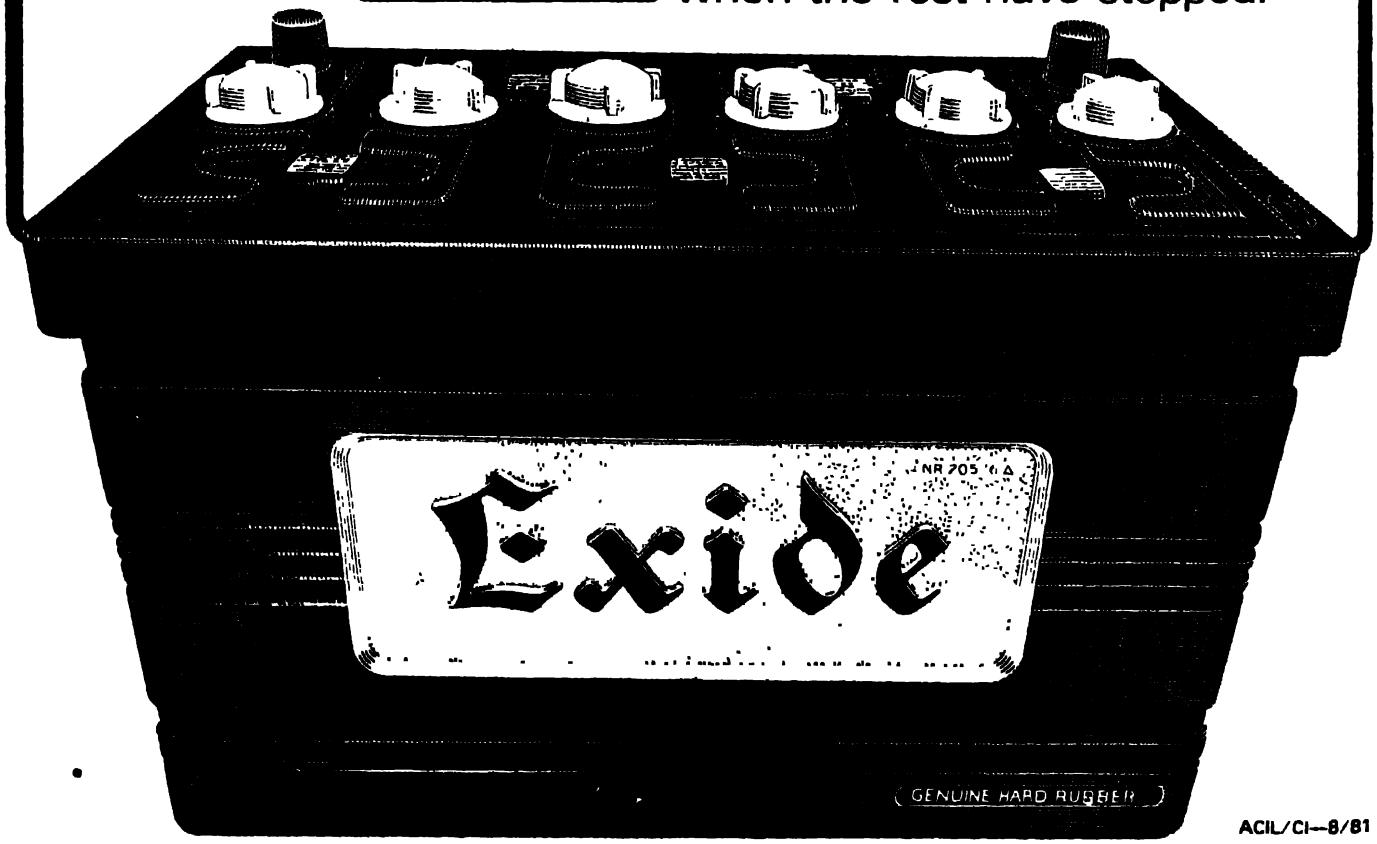


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ACIL/CI—8/81

Seeds' graveyard

THE Central India table tennis championship, held at Indore recently, proved to be the graveyard of almost all the top-seeded players who took part in it The women's events saw upsets galore, which pointed to the fallacy in the norms by which players for the Indian team are selected Laxmi Karanth (TN), selected in the Indian squad for the postponed Pentangulars, Nepal, lost in the pre-quarters to unseeded Vinu Phadke (Delhi), failing to qualify for the league Vyoma Shah, a familiar face in the Indian squad, stood a lowly sixth, playing a push-and-block game and often failing to position herself Again, Snigdha Mehta who has been playing for quite some time in the Indian team and known for her lethal top-spins proved no match for the stylish left-hander Rita Jain (Railways), whose angled blocking and counter attacks found Snigdha defenceless. Snigdha lost 1-3 to Rita and came a cropper occupying the seventh spot Rita, the 23 years old 1974 National Junior champion has come back to the national table tennis scene after a lapse of three years and is emerging as a forceful and attacking left-hander Her jabbing is reminiscent of Dilip Lakhani and it is a pleasure to see her position herself perfectly for unleashing her lightning forehand kills In her match against international Vyoma Shah, Rita Jain took a three-fold strategy of short service, top-spin and kill And she defeated Vyoma convincingly by 3 1 But, losing narrowly to the ultimate champion Nandini Kulkarni by 2-3 Rita Jain finished third with unseeded Vinu Phadke occupying the fourth spot

Another great performance was put up by Maharashtra's Kashmira Patel who beat Shailaja Salokhe 3-0 to reach the finals Kashmira easily tackled Shailaja's loose backhand chops by immaculate driving The irony of the women's event was that both the finalists, Nandini Kulkarni, the second seed and Kashmira Patel, the top seed, were above the age of 25 and were not being considered for selection to the Indian team under the so-called directive of the Indian Government not to select players above 25 years, though ironically this rule does not apply to either soccer or hockey Here, it ought to be noted that both Jill Hammersly of England (four times Commonwealth champion) and Lee Songh Sook of North Korea are above 25 and are still members of their national squad

If Kashmira Patel, the top seed, lost in the finals to the second seed Nandini Kulkarni 1-3, it was only due to her own mistakes In the first game Kashmira swept Nandini off her feet with slow service and by slowing the tempo of the game She won 21-18 But in the second game, with Kashmira leading 20-18, Nandini came from behind to win at 24 22 Nandini blocked and jabbed everything that Kashmira tried and in the process won many negative points In the third game, once again Kashmira was leading 13 5, but at 19-14, in favour of Kashmira, a sudden spurt of forceful drives and lovely angular placements from Nandini saw the champion win the game 21 19 The fourth game was a cakewalk for Nandini, who won it 21 11

One day before the finals, Kashmira Patel told *Sportsworld*, "I can never win against Nandini"

Never before the Central India tournament had witnessed such shocking upsets with the first four positions



Kashmira Patel - great performance

the Indian team. In the men's section, unseeded Kishore Ghorpade (Maharashtra), the brother of international Sujoy Ghorpade, knocked out top seeded Sriram of Maharashtra 3-1 in the pre-quarters Unorthodox Sriram, who plays close to the table, seemed no match for the smashing forehand kills of his adversary Again fourth seeded Rajat Katnuria, another international, was brushed aside by unseeded Nitish Vyas of Maharashtra in the pre-quarters No longer is Rajat fast

The other international who failed to qualify for the league was Sujoy Ghorpade of Maharashtra, the third seed, who lost to Satbir Singh of Jammu and Kashmir by 1 3 in the quarters. Only second seeded Chandrashekhar of Tamil Nadu and fifth seeded Kamlesh Mehta of Maharashtra, both internationals, showed some promise. Kamlesh Mehta with his fast double-flanked attack, angled placements, perfect jabbing and blocking never allowed international Manmeet Singh to settle down in the league match and won 3 1 to enter the final But the final between the national champion Chandrashekhar and Kamlesh Mehta saw little thrill with Chandrashekhar playing an intelligent game varying his services and effectively executing the loop drives Never did he allow Kamlesh to play his usual game

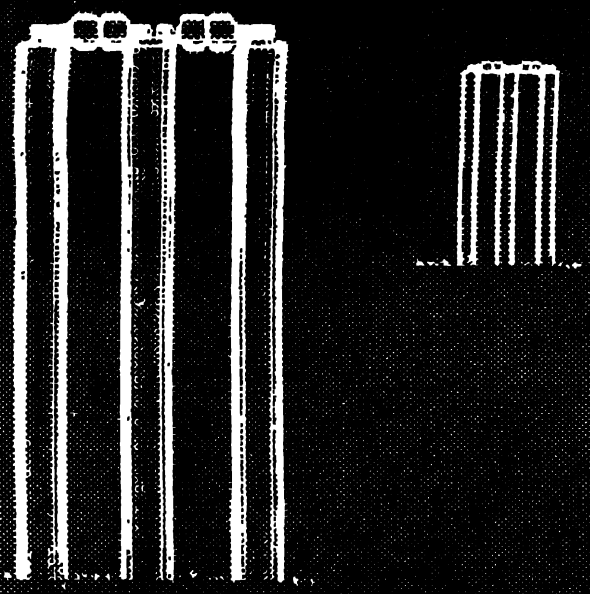
The national champion told *Sportsworld*, "I always kept the ball near the net to block Kamlesh's double-flanked attack". On the other hand Kamlesh said, "I failed to get my drives and this caused my downfall".

The boys' section, however, saw the greatest upset when top seeded Satbir Singh, the conqueror of Sujoy Ghorpade in the men's group, was edged out by unseeded Kunal Kashyap of Maharashtra 2-3. Kunal ultimately reached the finals, but lost to second seeded Arunjyoti Barua of Assam 2-3 Barua is a model of physical fitness.

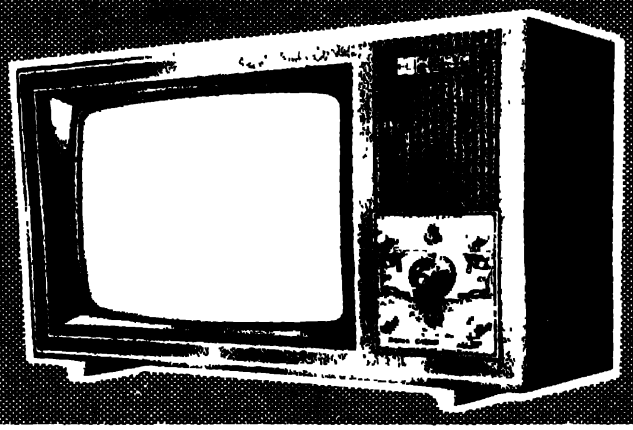
The girls' singles was won by the national champion Niyoti Roy of Maharashtra. She was the third seed in this competition and beat top seeded Meeta Sinha Roy in a lack-lustre final. But the girl who showed great promise was Jyoti Mehta of MP who, though seeded only fourth in the girls' Sub-juniors, won the title defeating Haseena Jam of Gujarat. But it was even more pleasing to see Jyoti, unseeded in the girls' section, come fifth in this event defeating sixth seeded Tina D Sudan of Delhi in the pre quarters Thus she entered the league. One wonders how Jyoti Mehta has learnt the art of side spins, hitherto seen only in Manmeet Singh The Sub-junior title in the boys' section was won by Vasant Bharadwaj of Karnataka, another promising prospect

SUJEET MOHANTY, Indore

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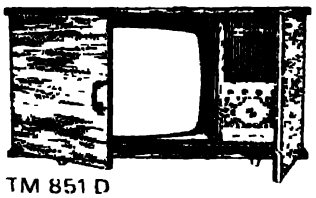
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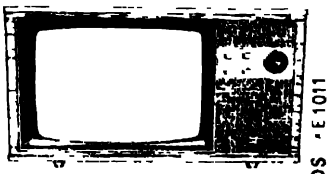
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WORLD BILLIARDS

Michael Ferreira does it again

It was a struggle between Norman, the artiste and Mike, the artisan, says S. K. MEHRA

IT went by the book Smart money was on Michael Ferreira, even at prohibitive odds, to win the World Amateur Billiards title again And with reason Holder of eight world records, he set four more on the way to the final at New Delhi's Maurya Sheraton Hotel Mike duly obliged but not before he had been put through the wringer by twice former champion, Norman Dagley

Billiards players, like cricketers, tend to improve in each era Right now, it would be easy to acclaim Ferreira as the best among them all, not forgetting the professionals But then, is he? A moot question this because Dagley, in his rally, all but sidelined Ferreira It was Dagley the artiste against Ferreira the artisan

Ferreira himself joined in paying high tribute to Dagley after his triumph "Today I have beaten the best player in the game My title win at the expense of Yorkshireman Bob Close in Melbourne was hardly as stifling," he said before he received the Arthur Walker Trophy from Mr Kapil Mohan, Tuesday last

Opinions may differ about who is the champion of champions—both have now won the title twice—but one thing is certain The pair co-operated to provide eight hours of torrid, blistering, nail-biting suspense A mere 94 points win (2725 to 2631) was all that Ferreira could gain after he had led by over 900 points at one stage

There were enough wild swings to delight kitblitzer and the bookmaker This is how it went Norman in lead by over 500 points Mike bounces back, goes ahead after the first day's four hours The next day, Mike all but put himself out of the reach of his opponent

Dagley knew he was in a "no-win" position but he fought back He had the full house stomping, wildly cheering as he cut the lead to a mere 46 That was when Ferreira repeatedly asked for the minutes left for play. These were mercifully few

Where then to begin the tale of this tempestuous final in which there were no villians, only heroes Should it be from where Dagley, stroking superbly well, galloped to a 571-point lead after 16 visits. Or from where Ferreira took over and ended 348 points ahead after 44 visits to the close of the first day's two sessions.

The next day Ferreira enhanced his margin to 909 before Dagley got in the act Three power breakdowns failed to faze him as he relentlessly cut the arrears He was in full cry, but still short by 94 points, when the clock chimed the end of the match Ferreira sighed in relief, Dagley, smiling as ever, extended his hand in congratulations

This many-splendoured final somewhat erased the memory of mostly one-sided matches in the two pool league and the semi-final matches Only Ferreira and Dagley were star class among the 14 contestants

The others who left impressions were Lateef Amir Bux, Subhash Aggarwal and Joe Grech.

Ajmer-born Lateef, representing Pakistan, has the most potential This was Lateef's first international—in fact, he has not stepped out of Karachi—and he made it to the semi-final.

He has the petal-soft Laffir touch Lateef nudges the ball, mesmerises it almost gives the impression of pushing. Lateef, who eschews the heroics, has all the attributes of a professional. He has the ability to close down the game. A year or two on the international circuit should see him troubling the world's best

Subhash Aggarwal, sure of touch and quickly on the mark, is far too venturesome The second best in India, played to the gallery more often than not He will have to slow down the pace to make it to the stars. He set two world marks for fast scoring but fell flat against both the finalists

Joe Grech failed to get going but when he did, he looked real good, as against Ferreira The Malta champion is young enough to be given another chance

World meets are no novelty in the capital Hosting the tournament provided no difficulty, not after the Delhi Billiards and Snooker Association gained the patronage of helpful politicians and obliging businessmen, not only that, technical help came from many quarters to make this an outstanding show

Michael Ferreira aiming with rapt concentration



WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

A nervous man bows out

For all his sound and fury, VICTOR KORCHNOI, the self-exiled Russian chess player, proved no match for the reigning world champion ANATOLY KARPOV during the 49-day championship held recently at Merano, Italy HIMANISH GOSWAMI reviews the competition

World chess champion Anatoly Karpov



VERY few people, apart from chess enthusiasts, cared to follow the World Chess Championship which took place at Merano, Italy, from October 1 to November 19 this year In all, 18 games were played—much fewer than those of the 1978 World Championship in which 32 games were played On both occasions the challenger was the same—Victor Korchnoi, now 50, the man who twice sought to topple Anatoly Karpov, the 30 years old reigning champion, from the throne of world chess, but only to fail Both of them are Russians, but, while Karpov is a darling boy and an 'ideal citizen' of the Soviet Union, Korchnoi has been a non-person in the eyes of the Soviet authorities, his name being seldom mentioned in the Russian mass media, after he defected to the West in 1976 Now he is in the process of acquiring Swiss citizenship.

Korchnoi left Soviet Union sans his wife and son Igor, who is now in Siberia serving a prison term Korchnoi wished to have with him both his wife and son, but the Soviet authorities have so far not issued any visa, and Korchnoi thinks it to be a part of their design to prevent him from playing the game properly with an undisturbed mind Korchnoi even threatened not to participate in the championship, unless the Soviet authorities allowed his family to leave the country FIDE, the world body of chess postponed the start of the match by one month to give the Soviet government time to grant visas to Korchnoi's wife and son Everybody wondered whether the championship would at all take place, and even Karpov thought for a time that it was not going to be held

Almost everything in Russia is attached to politics, including their most favourite game, chess According to their leaders, every citizen should be a political person. He must be 'proud' of being a Soviet citizen, must defend it against the 'capitalist hyenas' And today the Russians are seeking to prove their supremacy over the non communist world through chess No wonder, therefore, that after the Merano victory Karpov's first act was to send a telegram to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, saying, "Your wish has been fulfilled "

But what did Korchnoi do that even his name is not mentioned publicly in the Soviet Union? He was a star and a hero only a few years back What went wrong?

The Soviet supremacy ever since 1927 in international chess was almost taken for granted both in the Soviet Union and outside Most of the international tournaments and matches were won by the Russians The people of Russia could never dream that the world champions could come at all from outside the Soviet soil But that belief was completely shattered when Spassky, one of the foremost Soviet chess players lost the world championship to Bobby Fischer The defeat was attributed to the slipshod way in which the top player of the country planned and executed his moves Spassky came under tremendous fire Others also were included in the list of persons who were severely criticized It included Korchnoi too, who, despite being a great player, was not considered strong enough to deal with Bobby Fischer They thought of Karpov—at that time only 21, full of promise and dynamism, cool-headed as well as imaginative, a brilliant positional player reminiscent of the great Cuban Capablanca—as the fittest player to challenge Bobby the older ones having shown their weaknesses and disappointed the countrymen They thought that even if Bobby refused to play again and the crown passed on to the challenger by default, it should pass on to a person who had never played with Fischer, so that the world would not be able to say that the crown had passed on to an undeserving person But Korchnoi was not convinced He refused to bow to this opinion His argument was that since both he and Karpov were likely to be reduced to novices by Fischer, he (because he thought himself better than Karpov) should face Fischer so that Karpov, a younger player, was not humiliated His reasoning was sound, perhaps, but it did not convince the Soviet chess organizers

In 1974 Karpov and Korchnoi, till then good friends, fought to decide who should face Fischer. Korchnoi lost to young Karpov the right to challenge Fischer. Korchnoi, who lost 2-3, said after the match, "I still think I am a better

well, and in 1976 he fled the country in disgust But deep in his mind was the determination to challenge Karpov some day When Karpov was crowned in 1975, as Fischer refused to play, he came back into the scene and challenged the new champion.

At Merano, therefore, it was not surprising that the atmosphere was charged with tremendous hostility. But there was also a distinct ray of hope that the match would be played through and that Korchnoi would not resort to dramatics. The first day's game started in icy silence, both sides being fully aware of their responsibilities towards the game itself. If the match had been abandoned for any reason whatsoever, the chess lovers of the world would have been disappointed and never pardoned whoever they thought responsible. Korchnoi is a thoroughbred chess player, and he would not like to see the match abandoned for something that was the cause of his own fight against the Soviet chess officials. On the other hand, cool and composed, Karpov was not given to tantrums, and so the world chess enthusiasts hoped that the championship would not be abandoned.

It became clear from the very beginning that the challenger was no match for the crown holder. In the first four games the result was 3-0 in Karpov's favour. Like cricket, chess also has its own uncertainties To some extent it can be a predictable game, if it happens to be played between a weak and a strong player But when the fight is between two very strong players, it is almost impossible to predict the results Korchnoi was a good fighter and was able to tide over very difficult situations And chess fans all over the world hoped Korchnoi would at least show his real strength

But nothing like that happened His nerves failed Was it because of his age? Maybe, but experts would probably disagree because his match and tournament records after 1978 did not suggest so One can never know what went wrong with him It is not known how Morphy lost his mind when he was the most powerful chess player in the world, or why Fischer never showed up for any chess match or tournament after winning the crown It was not possible to go into the mind of Korchnoi to find out the reason why he played this match so badly scoring only two against Karpov's six In 1978 he did much better by scoring five against Karpov's six At that time Karpov nearly lost the crown

Karpov won the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th, 14th and 18th games, while Korchnoi only 6th and 13th. In all 18 games were played, much less than those of any world championships in modern times. Korchnoi offered no excuse. He admitted he played badly, particularly the first four games.

Whatever might have been the reasons, Korchnoi was quite nervous from the very beginning. He became excited easily, fidgeted, and if one believes Karpov, even used insulting words against him Karpov protested in writing, and a warning to Korchnoi was issued along with a threat of imposing a fine of about $8000 if he did it again However the fine threat was withdrawn later

Once, Karpov opened with an unusual move and to counter it Korchnoi spent an unheard of 80 minutes, thus wasting his playing time considerably. According to the rules, each player gets 150 minutes to complete 40 moves Korchnoi has a tendency to get into time trouble and, as a result, has to make too many moves in too short a period of time But, this time, taking so much time to counter the first move he broke all previous records.

No doubt, Korchnoi was low in spirit and was disintegrating He said before the championship started that he was going to play with two pawns already down, meaning that his wife and son were not with him

As the scene emerges now, in chess Russia is still miles ahead of others The 1972 disaster was only an accident—an aberration—and is not likely to happen again in foreseeable future In the next three years, it is possible that a Soviet player will challenge Karpov once again The only other possibility is Bobby Fischer's re-emergence That chess genius will be just 41 in 1984, quite fit to win the world championship, age-wise, and he may by that time study and prepare himself enough to battle his way to the top to challenge Karpov.

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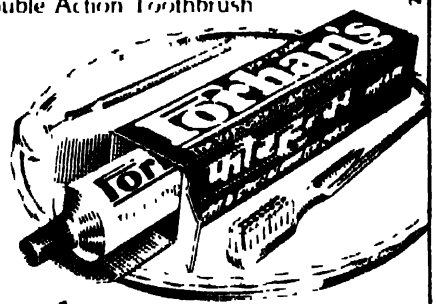
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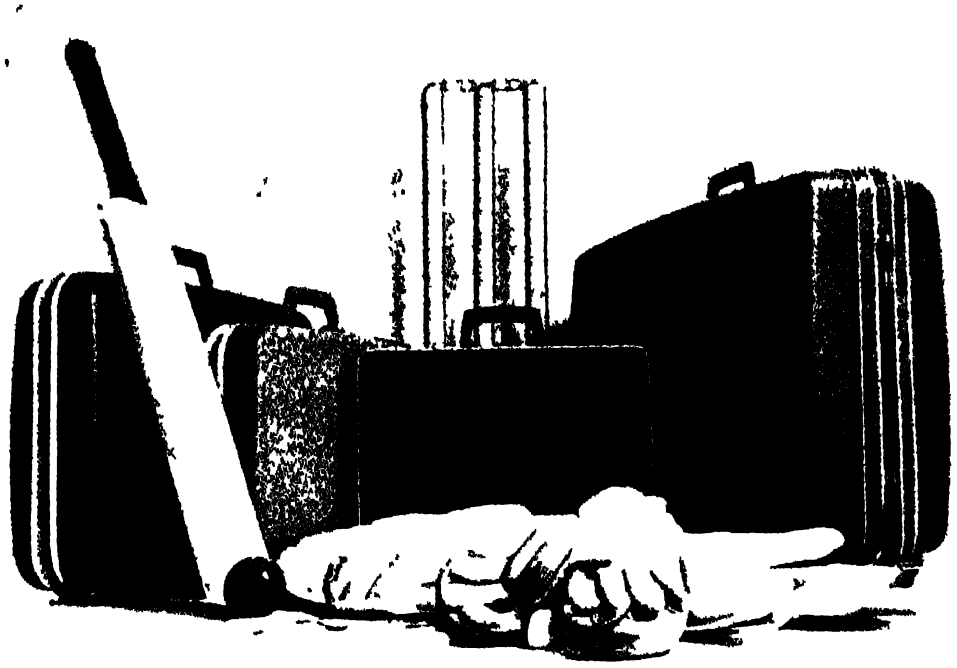
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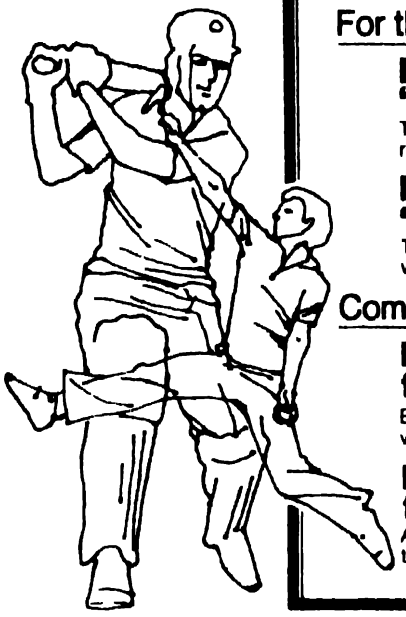
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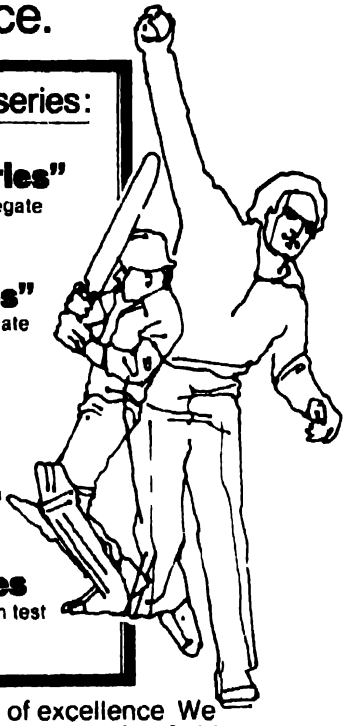
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News round-up

Asiad preparations in full swing

JULLUNDUR: "We have plans to complete all preparations for the Asian Games by the end of June next year, but we feel confident that we can complete them ahead of schedule, that is in April or May"—this was the assurance given by Mr Buta Singh, Union Minister for Transport and Shipping, when this reporter recently talked to him about the forthcoming Asian Games when the honourable minister went to Ludhiana as the chief guest to the third and final five-nation athletic Test

"The Asian Games villages with 853 blocks are fast coming up. They will be sufficient to accommodate over 5,000 officials, players, coaches, managers and other dignitaries," said the minister with a sense of pride. "There will be four dining halls where we will be able to serve the meals to about 2,000 people at a time," he added.

Replying to questions about the participation of foreign teams, he said that about 30 countries were expected to take part in the Games "For the participants we have built one mini hospital along with two recreational theatres."

Mr Singh further added that yachting and rowing would be staged outside Delhi.

Later, speaking at the prize distribution ceremony of the athletic Test Mr Buta Singh said that the torch of the Asian Games was first lit by our Jawaharlal Nehru in 1950. That spirit had been carried forward and the people would see the 1982 Asian Games to be organised with great efficiency and discipline.

HARBANS SINGH VIRDI

PSEB win hockey tourney

PATNA: The ninth All-India Inter-State Electricity Board hockey tournament once again proved lucky for Punjab who had their lease over the glittering trophy extended for yet another year Having won it in the last two years, it was the third time in succession that Punjab lifted the trophy as they got the better of their neighbours, Haryana, by a solitary first half goal in the final It was a snap goal to which the Punjab State Electricity Board hung on till the very end

Within five minutes after the kick-off Punjab made a move from the midfield as right-half Narendra Singh Sodhi passed the ball on to wingman, the skipper, Ishwar Mahal who in turn flicked it to the insider who dribbled past two defenders and finding the left extreme Paramjit Singh unmarked, allowed him to have a crack. Paramjit made no mistake to send the ball home

Stung by it, the Haryana forwards started exerting pressure on their rivals mainly down the left flank On one occasion in the first half they missed a sitter when Prakash Chand centred beautifully, but there was none to tap it in As the match progressed the Punjab players tried to be rough. But, when green card was shown to right half Narendra Singh Sodhi for dangerously tackling Haryana's most useful forward, Ranvir Singh, the desired effect was created and the players refrained from rough play

By and large, the second half was dominated by Haryana, but they missed a few opportunities to score. On, at least, half a dozen occasions the ball travelled dangerously close to the Punjab Electricity Board citadel, but every time either there was no one to slam the ball in or the custodian, Gurinder Pal Singh, padded it away.

The young custodian had to face the hardest test when midway through the second session, the Haryana outside right Phool Kumar made a centre to Ranvir Singh who promptly dispatched a powerful drive at the target. Gurinder Pal stepped out and brilliantly kicked the ball away

PREM KUMAR



CRI.QUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

"Best innings ever seen in Australia"

"Probably the best innings ever seen in Australia" That was the verdict of Sir Donald Bradman on an international batsman's performance on the Melbourne Cricket Ground

Sir Donald said those who had seen it had enjoyed one of the historic events of cricket—"they were privileged to have such an experience " The batsman who inspired this tribute had scored 254 against Australia in an unforgettable display at the New Year, 1971-72 Over two days he batted for six hours and 16 minutes, hitting two sixes and 35 fours On the first day, a Monday, he scored 139 not out in three hours 36 minutes and hit 21 fours It was majestic batting, wrote veteran cricket critic Tom Goodman in *Wisden* After a rest day, the batsman resumed sedately but recovered his aggression and put on 115 more runs

"It was an unforgettable display," wrote Goodman, "combining such elegance of stroke-play, power and aggression that the crowds responded ecstatically " About 60,000 spectators, besides hundreds of thousands on television outside Melbourne, saw a master batsman hit two sixes, 35 fours, 8 threes, 12 twos and 62 singles He scored 50 from 70 balls in 69 minutes, 100 from 129 balls in 135 minutes, 150 from 231 balls in 261 minutes, 200 from 274 in 330 minutes and 250 from 320 balls in 373 minutes

One of the fielders during a dazzling display was Australia's aggressive opener Keith Stackpole, who later wrote "No-one could ever hope to see a better hand " At one stage, said Stackpole, he was fielding at gully and Kerry O'Keeffe was third slip The ball was being slashed past them so savagely that "by the time I turned it had crashed into the fence " Stackpole added. "On what's probably the biggest ground in the world that demonstrated his power He mauled everyone, including Lillee "

One shot off O'Keeffe was amazing, said Stackpole Off the back foot the batsman lofted the ball effortlessly straight down the ground for six A partner who contributed 54 to a stand of 186 wrote. "What a priceless memory to have been out there with a genius "

Seven wickets were down when this player came to the wicket He wrote "Apparently time was running out The fact that I managed to survive for some three and a half hours did perhaps provide one of the greatest services ever performed for a sporting public "They hooted and booed my defensive bat for I must have looked like a complete incompetent in comparison with my partner At the other end he was unbelievably brilliant

"He ravaged the Australian attack like a mad dog in a chicken run but perhaps his greatest satisfaction was when Ian Chappell summoned Dennis Lillee to use the third new ball (Lillee had got him for a duck in the first innings).

"I have never witnessed such merciless slaughter The faster Lillee bowled, the faster the ball sped to the pickets. Twice deep extra cover didn't move a yard before a cover-driven ball crunched into the boundary."



QUESTION 1 Who put on this spectacular exhibition?

In the match marked by this great double century an Australian batsman was seriously hurt when hit in the face by a full toss He was rushed to hospital, placed in an intensive care ward and given 14 blood transfusions

QUESTION 2 Who was this batsman—an all-rounder who, in Sheffield Shield matches, has represented three Australian States—Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales?

Another serious injury necessitating blood transfusions for the victim occurred in Bridgetown when an Indian opening batsman was hit over the right ear by a ball from the West Indian fast bowler Charlie Griffith The batsman was rushed to hospital with a fractured skull and immediately underwent an emergency brain operation A specialist brain surgeon was flown from Trinidad and another operation was performed Three team-mates gave blood to the injured batsman as did the West Indies captain, Frank Worrell

QUESTION 3 Who was this badly hurt batsman?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 D J McGlew, in the third Test of Australia's 1957-58 tour of South Africa, in Durban, 1958 In the following Test, at Johannesburg, where South Africa followed on 198 behind, McGlew played another very slow, dogged innings, this time taking five hours 13 minutes for 50 in a six-hour innings of 70

2 Ken Mackay, added to the Australian party after the withdrawl of fellow-Queenslander all-rounder Ron Archer

3 Trevor Bailey Ken Mackay's 31 in 264 minutes at Lord's in 1956 was scored in the second innings of his first Test against England (In the first innings he batted 160 minutes for 38)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

1 Which sprinter won the Olympic 200m title by two metres even though he suffered a thigh injury 20m before the finish?
2 A famous British athlete and an Australian pace bowler have the same surname Who are they?
3 About whom did Len Hutton say "He had qualities that even Bradman hadn't got"?
4 Which great fast bowler was interned in Italy during the War, after his retirement?
5 Which great fast bowler broke a soccer referee's nose with a straight left after disagreeing with a free-kick decision?
6 Which speedster thrice took two wickets with consecutive balls in a Test innings?
7 Which great pace bowler said that if he could not bowl out a number nine, then he ought not to be playing for Australia?
8 Which international soccer star said that to him the most difficult thing to do was "shooting corners with the left foot"?
9 Who lamented that leg-spinning is a "dying art" these days?
10 Who is the only man to have led England in cricket and soccer?

ANSWERS

1 Tommie Smith (USA) in 1968
2 Alan Pascoe and Len Stephen Pascoe
3 Stan McCabe
4 W E 'Bill' Bowes
5 Jeff Thomson
6 Andy Roberts (Against England in 1976)
7 Ray Lindwall
8 Alfred di Stefano
9 Neville Cardus
10 R E Foster

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Ashok K Gupta, Champatia
Q What is Sunil Gavaskar's date of birth ?
A 10th July 1949

Satyajit Sarkar, Giridih.
Q How many Test centuries has Bradman scored against India?
A Four centuries—one at Brisbane, two at Melbourne and one at Adelaide in 1947-48

Debashish K. Ray, Dibrugarh.
Q. What is Jesu Patel's Test bowling record? And what was his best bowling performance?
A. In 7 Tests Patel bowled 1,725 balls, conceded 637 runs and captured 20 wickets at an average of 21 96 9 for 69 was his best bowling performance against Australia at Kanpur in 1959-60

Dainal Ahmed, Dibrugarh
Q What is Brijesh Patel's Test batting record?
A 21 Tests 38 innings five times not out 972 runs, 29 15 average, one century, 5 fifties and no zero

Somenath Mazumdar, Calcutta
Q Who are the three brothers who have played in the same Test?
A G F, E M and W G Grace of England against Australia at The Oval in 1880 and Hanif, Mushtaq and Sadiq Mohammad of Pakistan against New Zealand at Karachi in 1969-70

Prahlad Ghosh, Calcutta
Q How is a sports commentator selected? Do they need any qualification?
A A sports commentator is selected on the basis of his ability to give an exact picture of the game in progress

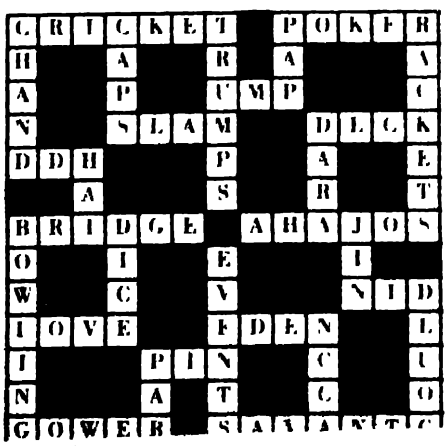
Avik Dutta, Calcutta.
Q Did Majid Khan ever score a century before lunch? If so, when and where did he score this?
A Yes, in the Karachi Test against New Zealand in 1976-77, he made 108 not out before lunch

S Anuradha, Hyderabad
Q How many wickets has G D McKenzie of Australia taken and at what cost?
A 246 wickets at an average of 29 78 in 60 Tests

Rajesh Goswami, Gauhati
Q What is the highest score by an individual in first class cricket?
A 499 by Hanif Mohammad in Karachi vs Bhawalpur match at Karachi in 1958-59

Harjeet, Delhi
Q Give the names and scores of those who played for the Indian XI in their first ever Test
A. Navle 12 and 13 Naoomal 33 and 25 Wazir Ali 31 and 39 C K Nayudu 40 and 10, Colah 22 and 4 Nazir Ali 13 and 6, Palia 1 and 1 n o , Lall Singh 15 and 29 Jehangir Khan 1 and 0 Amar Singh 5 and 51, Mohammad Nissar 1 n o and 0

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 125



Somenath Das, Calcutta
Q. How many Tests did India win in Australia in 1977 78?
A Two Tests only—third and fourth

Balan Banerjee, Dum Dum
Q What is the date of birth of P Willey?
A 6 12 1949

Allauddin Ahmed, Tezpur
Q What is Vengsarkar's full name?
A. Dilip Balwant Vengsarkar

G Ravindranath Pune
Q Can both the batsmen be declared run out simultaneously if their wickets are broken at both ends?
A No

Babu Mitra, Baranagar
Q Who was the first Indian batsman to score a century? When and where did he achieve this feat?
A Lala Amarnath was the first Indian batsman to score 118 runs in the second innings of the 1st Test against England at Bombay in 1933 34

V Basu, Calcutta
Q What is the batting record of M Amarnath in Test cricket?
A 24 Tests 45 innings, 3 times not out, 1,466 runs 101 not out as highest score, 34 90 average, 2 centuries, 9 fifties and 6 zeroes

Sharmila Arland, Birmutrapur, Miss Leena, Bombay
Q On which day was Roger Binny born and what is his Ranji Trophy record?
A Binny was born on 19th July, 1955 and in 28 Ranji Trophy matches he scored 1 638 runs at an average of 39 95 with 3 tons

Ashif Ali, Barrackpur
Q How many centuries did M A K Pataudi score in Test cricket?
A Six centuries three against England two against New Zealand and one against Australia

S R Chandar, Nagarcoil
Q How many catches has Tony Greig taken in Tests?
A 87 catches in 58 Tests

Mihir Kumar Jha, Darbhanga
Q Who were the first victims of Bedi Prasanna, Chandrasekhar and Venkatar aghavan in Test cricket?
A Basil Butcher of West Indies was Bedi's first Test victim, while Geoff Millman of England was Prasanna's first Test victim Barry Knight of England was Chandrasekhar's first victim and Grahan Dowling of New Zealand was the first victim of Venkataraghavan

Abdus Salam, Ghuskira
Q Who was Kapil Dev's first Test victim?
A Sadiq Mohammad of Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1978 79

Tuku, Dhanbad
Q Where and when did Lance Gibbs take his 309th Test victim?
A In the 6th Test against Australia

Debsubhra Banerjee, Suri
Q. What were the Test bowling figures of G G Arnold and P L Pocock?
A. 7,650 balls, 3,254 runs, 115 wickets, 28 29 average, 6 for 45, the best bowling performance by G G Arnold and 4,482 balls, 2,023 runs, 47 wickets, 43 04 average and 6 for 79, the best bowling performance by P L Pocock

Rajneesh Priyadarshi, Raxaul
Q. When, where and against whom did Syed Kirmani make his debut in Test? How many runs has he scored so far?
A. Kirmani made his entry in Test cricket in the first Test against New Zealand at Auckland in 1975-76 In 48 Tests so far, Kirmani has scored 1,675 runs

C. A. Rao, Gondia.
Q. Will the non-striker, who himself is out of the crease, be out if the bowler, after taking a return catch, dislodges in the same action the bails at his end?
A. No

Sarika Mody, Bombay.
Q. How many wickets has Bedi taken, and in how many Tests did he capture these wickets?
A. 266 wickets in 67 Tests

Dilip Madani, Gauhati.
Q. Who has scored the fastest century in Test cricket?
A. J M Gregory of Australia scored the fastest century (in 70 minutes) in Test cricket against South Africa in 1921-22

B. U. S. Ganapathi Rao, Visakhapatnam.
Q. When did Botham play his first ever Test match?
A. In the 3rd Test against Australia at Nottingham in 1977

Gurjit Arora, Arrah.
Q. Which Indian bowler took the first Test wicket for India?
A. Mohammed Nissar claimed Sutcliffe and Holmes in his third over at Lord's in 1932

Arnab Bose, Calcutta.
Q. What was the Test record of Keith Miller?
A. In 55 Tests he scored 29, 58 runs with 7 centuries at an average of 36 97 and captured 170 wickets at an average of 22 97

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Nowadays, the English Bridge Union Teachers Association runs examinations in the game – both O- and A-levels! These are not just designed to test the playing skills of the candidates, but their ability to teach would-be players, with not only a written paper, but an oral as well One of the parts of the oral consists of the student being given a hand (which he has not seen before) and asked to explain how the bidding and play should go I thought that this year's hand was rather sticky in the play department

♠ 10 9 5 3
♡ A Q
◇ 10 8 7
♣ K J 10 8

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J 8 6
♡ J 3
◇ A K 5
♣ 9 6 3

South dealt with North-South vulnerable and the bidding set no real problems It is difficult to think of an alternative to one-spade – three spades – four-spades Now, how do you plan the play on the lead of the four of hearts? You can take your time, but remember that the candidates have to talk their way through as though they were explaining the hand to a class
It is not too difficult to count certain winners and certain losers but clearly the number of tricks that you make depends on where ♡ K and ♣ Q lie Unfortunately, there is also the question of timing Perhaps the clearest way of looking at the hand is to argue that you must draw trumps (losing the lead once) before tackling the clubs (when you have to lose the lead again) If East holds the Queen of clubs, you will never have time to establish your tenth trick in clubs before the defenders set up a diamond trick to defeat you Therefore you must hope that ♣ Q is right Now you can see that the heart finesse is irrelevant Its success will turn eight tricks into nine (if the clubs are wrong) and ten tricks into eleven (if ♣ Q is well placed) It will never convert nine tricks into ten!
Furthermore, an unsuccessful heart finesse at trick one leads to certain defeat, whoever holds ♣ Q Conclusion play ♡ A on the first trick and start on trumps, gaining handsomely if East holds, for example, ♠ A 2 ♡ K 9 7 5 2 ◇ Q 4 3 ♣ A 5 2

Last week's quiz: with so many people playing strong one-club systems, I was asked whether it was worthwhile devising a conventional defence, or whether a double of one club should simply show clubs? With a temporary partnership I always go for simplicity, but a number of quite satisfactory defensive measures have been devised May I suggest double for the majors, 1NT for the minors (both otherwise rather unnecessary bids) and weak jump overcalls (to annoy the opponents)? However, at least half-a-dozen alternative strategies have been proposed, though not necessarily licensed by the English Bridge Union For example, the 'obligatory' overcall of one-spade on any weak hand had a certain vogue until banned by the Rules and Ethics Committee Why, I wonder? If one club is allowed to show a strong hand, why shouldn't one-spade show a weak one?
This week's quiz: a recent letter, asks if I approve of the 'New Grand Slam Force', to be played in conjunction with highly artificial systems I had never heard of it and so had to institute inquiries I was very amused by what I discovered, although I see that the convention is not licensed Well, what is the 'New Grand Slam Force'? I'll give you a clue – it is a bid of 5NT, but what do the responses of 6 ♣, 6 ◇ etc mean?

Chess

Peter Clarke

First, here is the solution to the study by D Joseph in last week's article **(3K4/kp6/p7/1P6/8/8/7P/8)** White wins by 1 P – Kt6ch, K – Kt1, 2 P – R4, P – R4, 3 P – R5, P – R5, 4 P – R6, P – R6, 5 P – R7, P – R7, 6 P – R8=Q, P – R8=Q, 7 Q – Kt8, Q – R7, 8 Q – K8, Q – R5, 9 Q – K5ch, K – R1, 10 Q – R8, and Black will be mated The themes of promotion, stalemate and mate are blended in perfect simplicity
Now, on a lighter note, let us admire a couple of miniatures (usually defined as games of 25 moves or less) from Kevin Wicker's *200 Modern Brilliancies* The winners are two of the most distinguished grandmasters of our time, Spassky and Korchnoi As a young superstar, Spassky was compared with Alekhine in attacking skill and universality of style The flame has died down a little, but this game shows that you can never be sure he will not produce a bolt from the blue
White **Boris Spassky**; Black **Helmut Pfleger.** Caro-Kann Defence (Munich 1979)

1 P – K4, P – QB3;	**2 P – Q4, P – Q4**
3 Kt – QB3, PxP;	**4 KtxP, Kt – Q2**
5 B – QB4, Kt/2 – B3;	**6 Kt/4xQch, KPxKt**
7 Kt – K2, Kt – KB3;	**8 B – KB3, B – Q3**
9 P – QB4, B – B2;	**10 B – B4, O – O**
11 BxB, QxB,	**12 P – B5 . . .**

White accepts a backward QP in order to reopen the Bishop's attacking diagonal

12 . . . Kt – Q2;	**13 O – O, P – QKt3**

Time is important, and Black should have played 13 R – Q1 followed by Kt – B1 and B – K3.

14 PxP, PxP;	**15 R – K1, B – Kt2**
16 Kt – Kt3, KR – K1?	**17 BxPch!!, KxB**
18 Q – R5ch, P – Kt3	

If 18 K – B1, White wins by 19 QxP, Q – B5, 20 Kt – B5, Q – Kt4, 21 Q – R8ch, K – B2, 22 Kt – Q6ch

19 QxRPch, K – B1;	**20 P – KR4, Resigns**

Black is helpless against the advance of the KRP. Korchnoi, noted for dour fighting and long games, wins even more quickly – his opponent was just not ready for such tactical sharpness and vision
White **Stefano Tatai**; Black **Victor Korchnoi.** French Defence (Beersheva, 1978)

1 P – K4, P – K3;	**2 P – Q4, P – Q4**
3 PxP, PxP;	**4 B – Q3, P – QB4**
5 Kt – KB3, Kt – QB3;	**6 Q – K2ch, B – K2**
7 PxP, Kt – B3,	**8 P – KR3 . .**

White's play has been too cautious 8 P – B3 at once was better

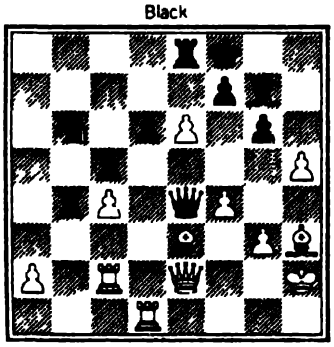
8 . . O – O;	**9 O – O, BxBP**
10 P – B3, R – K1;	**11 Q – B2, Q – Q3**
12 QKt – Q2 . . .	

That this natural move fails proves how difficult White's position has become 12 K – R1 would have avoided the coming trouble

12 Q – Kt6,	**13 B – B5, R – K7**
14 Kt – Q4, KtxKt,	**15 Resigns**

Competition 8496 Solution next week

Black



White

White to play How did the game finish?

Solution to 8485 (Keres – Schmid, Zurich, 1961). (3r4/p1kb1Q1r/BppR1p1p/4pq2/8/2P3P1/PPP2P1P/2KR4 – white to play) The Black King fell to a swift attack 25 RxQBPch, K – Kt1, 26 Q – Q5, QxKBP, 27 Q – Q6ch, K – R1, 28 B – Kt7ch, KxB 29 R – B7ch, and Black resigned

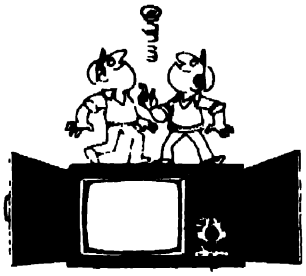
Problem No 1181. Solution next week
V F. Rudenko (*L'Italia Scacchistica*, 1958)
(8/2Q2n2/1K6/3p4/1p1kp3/1P6/4Rn2/2R1N3 – 6 white men; 6 black)
White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1180 (Sladek). (k3nRr1/1p2R3/1Pp5/p1p5/K1P5/6B1/8/8 – mate in four.) 1 K – Kt3 (threatening 2 RxR etc) (a) 1 P – R5ch, 2 K – B2, RxR, 3 PxR=Q and 4 QxKt, (b) 1 RxBch 2 K – R4, R – Kt1, 3 RxR and 4 RxKt.

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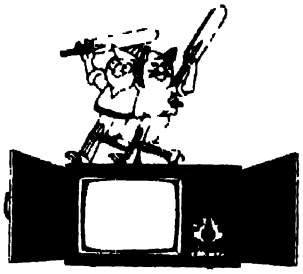
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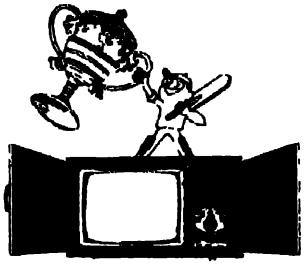
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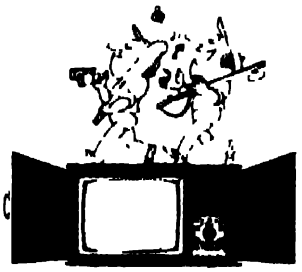
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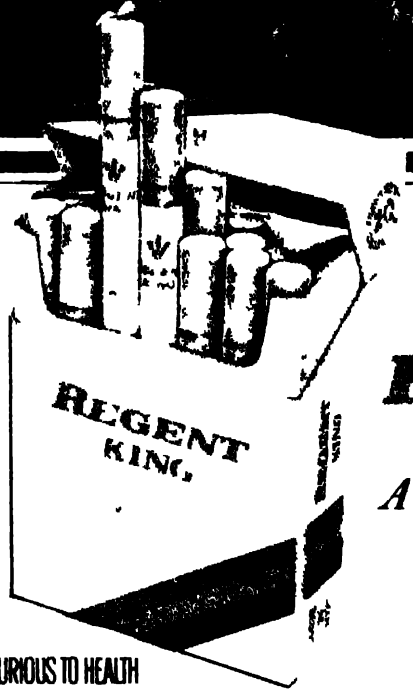
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Sportsworld

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Change rule to curb bad behaviour –Asif Iqbal

MCC versus South Zone



Special report from Melbourne



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The second Test of the current series between Pakistan and Australia bore out the saying that cricket is full of glorious uncertainties DAVID M MAHON reports from Melbourne

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Despite concerted repeated efforts the Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation failed in its bid to include the sport in the IXth Asian Games, mainly owing to the intransigence of Raja Bhalinder Singh SUBHASH SARCAR reports



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Cover pictures of Greg Chappell and Asif Iqbal

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Letters to the Editor

Unfair

WE strongly oppose the mixture of English and Hindi commentary as relayed by the All India Radio during the current Test series Previously, both were separate, that is, before the 1979 India-Australia series when they were on different transmitters

Why has this been done? Commentary in any sport (especially cricket) means cricket Does the Indian Government worry about extra expenditure? Then how could they manage two separate transmitters before 1979?

P K SAHA,
T K BANERJEE,
S K SENGUPTA,
Darbhanga

Undigestable

ADVERTING to the letter of Soumitra Sinha in the November 25 issue of *Sportsworld* it is difficult to digest his suggestion that a great batsman like Vishwanath should retire from cricket prematurely for losing of form There are very few batsmen in India who can excel the little Vishy in technique and perfection.

P K VARADARAJAN,
Madras

Routine

REGARDING the umpiring controversy hatched by the English journalists I'd like to say that it has become almost a routine for the visiting teams to criticise the umpiring here But in this case it is nothing but an example of a bad workman quarrelling with his tools

Actually, what beat those English Pressmen was that very ordinary Indian side has been able to win over the 'great' English team. It has been a big jolt to their ego and so they are falling over each other in making excuses like bad umpiring and bad behaviour of the Indian crowd just to cover up for the failure of the English team

TANIYA GHOSH,
Calcutta

Shame

IT was really painful and shameful to learn the disappointing behaviour of Fatesinhrao Gaekwad after the recently concluded MCC West Zone match, which was played at Baroda. At a party hosted by him, the MCC players were presented with neckties in front of the West Zone players, who were offered nothing Was it not a partial behaviour by such a renowned cricketer and politician? If he boasts of money, why didn't he have that much to present the same gifts to the West Zone players? Naturally, the West Zone players felt humiliated and should have walked out of the party, assuring the host that they, too, were as important as the Englishmen.

PRABAL GUHA,
Baliyan North

THE barrage of criticism levelled in the English Press of the Indian umpiring is wholly unwarranted and can at best be described as the usual rancour of men unable to digest defeat. Do the Englishmen expect the Indian umpires to just look the other way when the English batsmen due to their unsound footwork play across and are found plumb in front of the stumps They always seem to be dissatisfied whenever they are adjudged lbw and give vent to their feeling openly forgetting all the niceties that are associated with the game.

Besides, there is a wrong belief in cricketing circles that the English umpires are all above board and commit no mistakes Every keen follower of cricket would be able to recall without fail the way we were deprived of a victory at The Oval in our last English tour Needing a huge score of over 400 runs in the last innings of that last Test, we nearly made it till the umpires stepped in to halt our match A few of our batsmen going great guns were declared lbw on the front foot and almost halfway down the pitch when there is no semblance of the ball in line with the stumps

C R PANCHANATHAN,
New Delhi

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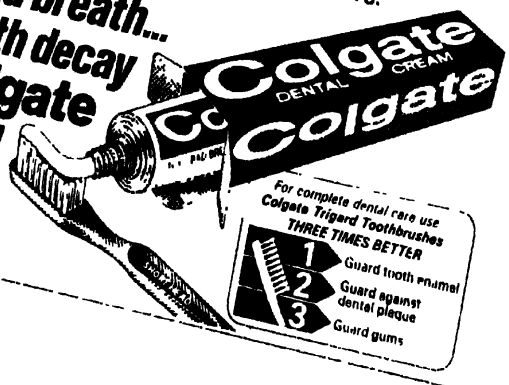


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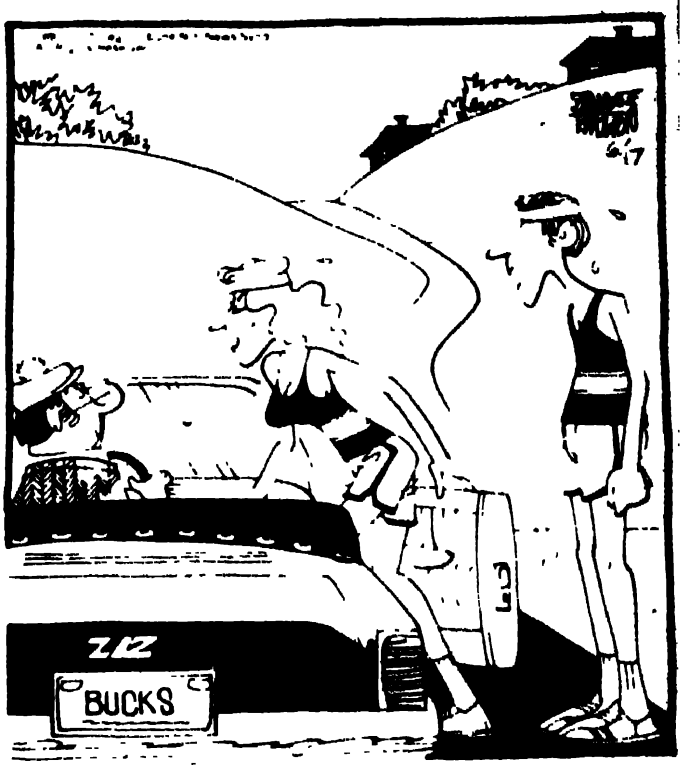
4

The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman



"LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, HOPKINS... I DON'T SEE ANY OUT-OF-BOUNDS MARKERS!"



"BUT MILDRED YOU CAN'T DO THIS... THINK OF OUR FAMILY... THE KIDS.. YOUR CHOLESTEROL COUNT."

PLANE FACTS FOR GOLFERS

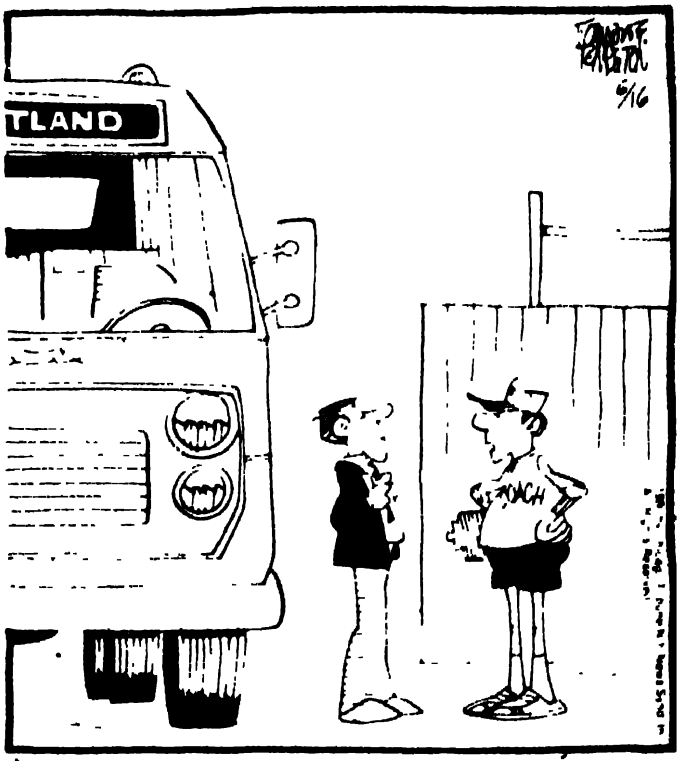
Norfolk: A local golf course lies at the end of a run way used by helicopters servicing North Sea oil rigs and pleasure flights. High flying golfers have been causing havoc with these low flying air planes, as airport owner Mr Wilburforce said while lodging a complaint. "These planes can be brought down if a golf ball hits the propeller—as seems likely."

NO KID-DING

London: Eddie Kid a motorcycle stunt rider was asked to perform in order to raise funds for a heart transplant hospital in Cambridgeshire. Kid performed a major operation. He made a perfect jump over a row of eight heart transplant patients! Happily they survived the ordeal and the authorites secured the necessary funds.

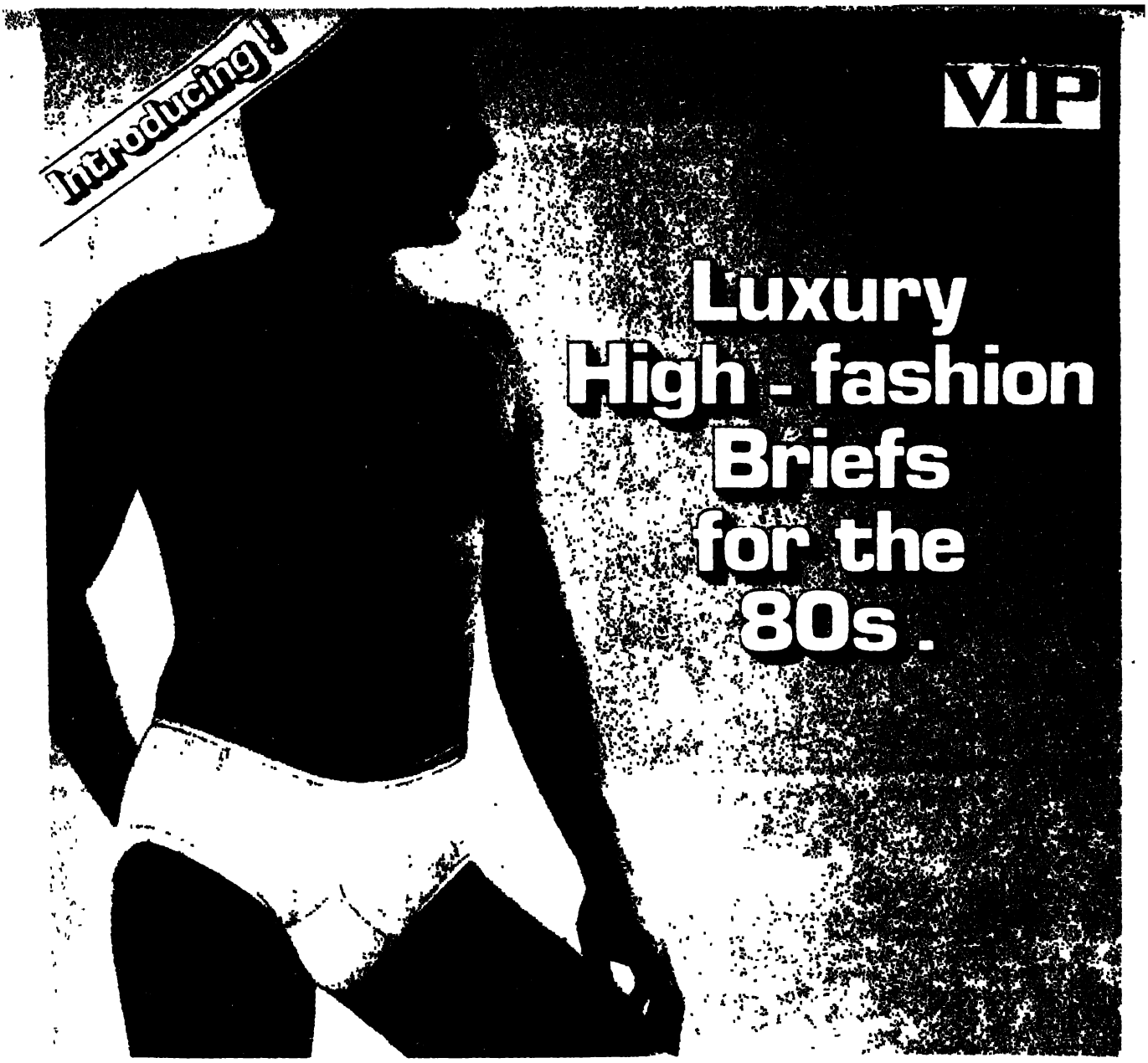
JOGGING DOESN't SAVE THE BACON

Arizon: If you've been running for your life, forget it. Here's why. Arizona's celebrated jogging pigs are now simply anonymous packets of bacon on supermarket shelves. Fifty-four porkers were used in a pig jogging project at the state University to study the effect of diet and exercise on health. The pigs were divided into three groups and given different diets and levels of exercise. Before being slaughtered their blood was analysed and it was found that while the joggers ate less and grew shapelier legs (!) only the pigs with low fat diets had healthier blood though they had no exercise, which for man means that a balanced diet is more essential than the best exercise to protect against heart disease.

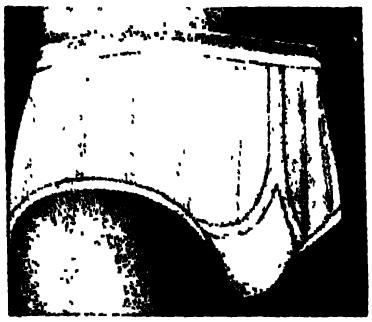


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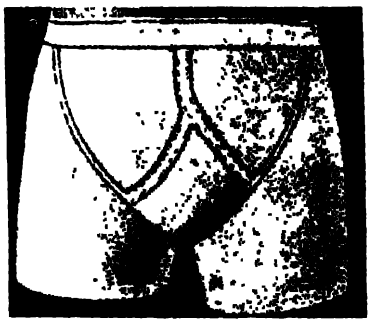


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Centenary

Middlesex's no-man's lander

IN this age of widespread awareness and increased coverage of sports how many of us will even care to know that the birth centenary of Frank Tarrant, the great all-rounder of Victoria and Middlesex passed away on December 11, this year.

Some time ago, Tarrant became the victim of a generational feeling which discounted the merits of players long past it and done with. They argued that Victor Trumper at his best would have been reduced to pulp and a bowler of, say, Rhodes' ability worked into the workhouse. A fallacy.

Test cricket escaped Tarrant. He began his career with Victoria with some success. After that he sailed to the land of his ancestors—he was distantly related to George Tarrant who, according to W G Grace, 'was all over the place like a flash of lightning'—looking for the lucky break

The result was that he qualified to play in England, but residential restrictions made his inclusion in the national side an impossibility Caught between two worlds, Tarrant, at the international level, remained untapped—quite tragically—at a time when he could have walked into any eleven. Even ten years after his return from England, Tarrant fared so well against Arthur Gilligan's mighty team of 1924-25 that he came within a graze of making it to the master side. And by that time he was already 43

In all, Tarrant did the 'double' eight times and had the First World War not interfered with a productive spell, he would have drawn within whispering distance of Wilfred Rhodes' 16 such seasons and George Hirst's 14 In a decade, for Middlesex, he scored about 12,000 runs inclusive of 26 centuries, averaging 38, while as a bowler he captured more than a thousand wickets at a frugal average of 17 per victim "There was assuredly no better all-rounder in England between 1907 and 1914 than Tarrant," declared Sir Pelham Warner And quite obviously, 'Plum' was not forgetting the Kirkheaton twins!

Tarrant arrived from Australia and was fortunate enough to be engaged with the MCC Ground Staff at Lord's and began playing for them from 1903, although in only 3 fixtures As a batsman, opportunity was more or less denied to him, but as a bowler he served a notice of sorts with a rich haul of a dozen wickets at less than 21 apiece

The following year, he emerged out of his chrysalis as a batsman, scoring 419 in 9 matches at a respectable average of 32. His 25 wickets cost him only 25 runs. Tarrant's objective in coming to England was to find a regular place in the Middlesex side. This was initially delayed, but after he had lived out his two qualifying years, he worked his way into the team in 1905. There was no encomium in waiting He played 14 games, including that against Joe Darling's Australians, making 627 runs and bagging 41 wickets. Relatively speaking, his batting had been moderately fruitful but he affirmed the potential in him with an unvanquished 162 at Leyton against the Essex attack in four and a half hours, adding 98 for the ninth wicket with J Hearne. Tarrant's place was made.

In the summer of 1906 Tarrant enhanced his tally to 73 wickets, but the crackers were yet to burst. The following season—his annus mirabilis—he completed the 'double' for the first time, hitting 1552 runs and capturing as many as 183 wickets at 15 7 each. As a bowler he was absolutely unplayable right through the season and as a batsman he was seldom committed to an error before August, after which he fell into those days of acute rationing and food shortage

Tarrant played more games than any of his Middlesex colleagues did and was fifth in their batting averages But he headed the bowling table with 115 wickets at a bare 15 each and *Wisden* passed the verdict that Tarrant 'can be fairly described as the best all-round cricketer of 1907'

He began with 9 for 82 in the match against Somerset in the home fixture and later hit 52, unexceeded by any of his side A few days later, he ran away with 13 for 87 against Gloucestershire while his 8 for 94 in an innings against Essex was one of the top performances of the season So devastating was his form that even the South Africans were dismissed for 212, the 25-year-old migrant leading the assault with 6 for 97. Later, he went in and contributed the top score of 42 Unfortunately, support was in short supply and Middlesex made only 112

After capturing a commendable 5 for 66 against the formidable Yorkshire Tarrant walked into his best match of the season He was absolutely intolerable that day, almost making the ball 'talk' He captured nine wickets in an amazing day's cricket and the Notts were shot out for 117. In the last five overs, his haul was an amazing seven wickets, with Trott bagging the prized wicket of George Gunn His figures after a most fertile spell—which included four wickets in as many balls—read 22 1-6-59 9

Wisden was unequivocal in praise It reported that 'some of the Notts men thought they had never seen a finer piece of bowling' After a closer study it added that he was 'quite comparable to Rhodes at his best.' But the good work proved futile and the shell-shocked Notts managed to win by 13 runs

Two seasons later, Tarrant monopolised, almost illegally, the match versus Gloucestershire. He took 7 for 18 and 6 for 49 to do the antagonists in for 33 and 81 and then, as if that was inadequate, he carried his bat for 55 runs out of a total of 145. The match, courtesy Tarrant, proved to be a financial flop It was finished in a day.

Against arch-rivals Surrey in early June at the Lord's, he took 6 for 62 and 7 for 100 and had the immense satisfaction of getting the wicket of Jack Hobbs—in both innings. But it was later in the season that Tarrant produced the extraordinary He began with figures of 7 for 27 to bundle Hampshire out for 51 He opened the innings and lashed 38 out of 42 in just 27 minutes, the highest of the side. Middlesex gathered only 166 When Hampshire went in, again Tarrant was after them with greater zest—and success—and this time he returned with an incredible 8 for 20 Hampshire, making 79, plummeted by an innings and the score sheet for once, recorded a rare phenomenon C. P Mead b Tarrant 1—lbw Tarrant 1

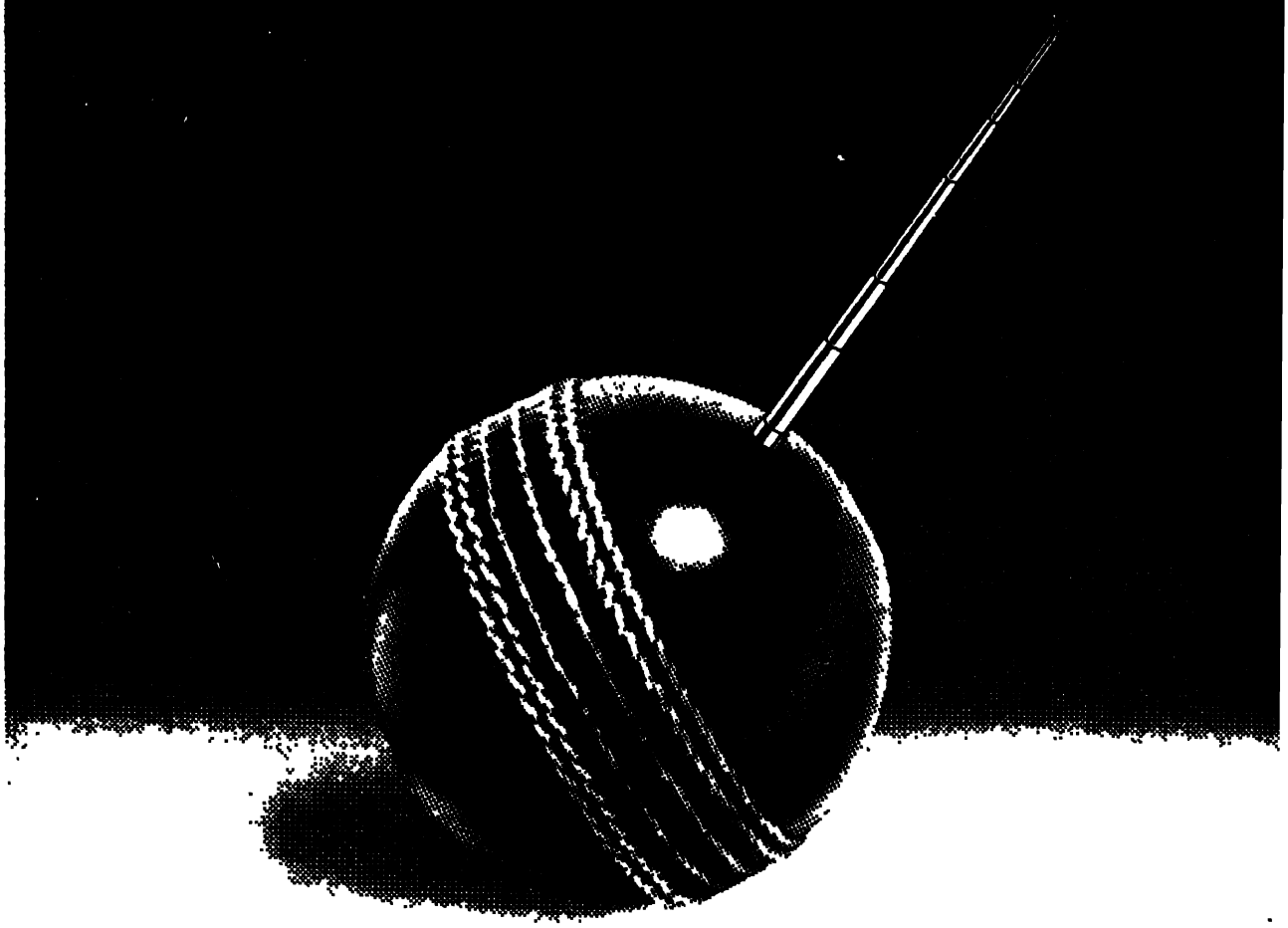
The year 1914 was Tarrant's last season in English cricket As prolific as ever, he now stood second in the batting averages of his County with 51, aggregating 1743 runs in 22 matches, while his 131 wickets came at a parsimonious 18 each Essex once again fell prey to his temper, Tarrant taking an unbeaten 250 off them, an innings which he followed with exactly 200 against Worcestershire J W Hearne and he allied most profitably, the former making 106 not out and 104 respectively On both occasions, they recorded double centuries in undivided partnerships, 229 in the first, following it with 216

On a good wicket he could keep an end going for hours and on a 'stickie' one there was rarely a trick which escaped him At times, he used to fall into a period of insecurity, spinning the ball just too much to strike a length which resulted in a spate of full-tosses But once the ball began to touch a safe spot Tarrant usually finished making the batsmen looking like clowns in a never ending procession

Tarrant died in 1951—unsung And this year his birth centenary was treated as a non-event Understandably—the world is too well known in doing such things to great men

MUDAR PATHERYA

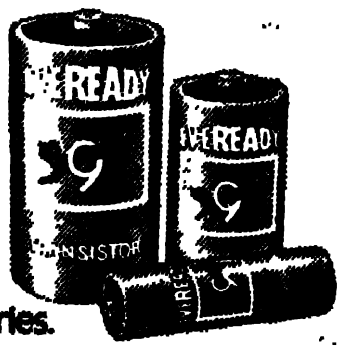
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Focus

Why should the players carry the can ?

In India there is no clear-cut guideline to determine the eligibility of a team to enter the national championships. FAROKH KHODAIJI calls for immediate steps to safeguard the interests of the players who are the only victims of this situation

WHAT are the qualifications required of a team that aspires to take part in the national championship of a sport in India? Who can and who cannot participate in a national tournament?

You cannot answer these questions as easily as you imagine. Every national federation has its own set of rules as to who will qualify. The Cricket Control Board allows both Bombay and Maharashtra, Gujarat and Saurashtra to play in the Ranji Trophy matches The Indian Hockey Federation allows Services, Railways and Indian Airlines to participate in the Nationals. The Athletic Federation of India permits Railways and Services teams to take part in their premier events. The Table Tennis Federation has gone even further—they allow two teams from one State to take part and in addition, one Institution, the Railways have direct entry to the national tournament; yet another must qualify from the Inter-Institutional tournament.

The rules as you can see, are quite flexible and are changed quite often to accommodate some team or institution. The Railways played for two decades in the TTFI's National and Inter-State events, until someone suddenly realised that Railways were not a State, and could not play the team event. The Railways were unceremoniously dumped and a new class of membership in the TTFI called the Institution, was created. Then again, Maharashtra was allowed to field two teams in the Nationals, simply because the Maharashtra State was brought into being in 1964 and the three associations of Bombay, Poona and Vidarbha were merged to form the MSTTA. When the Railways were dumped in 1974, so also was the second Maharashtra team.

The Railways expressed their wish to be restored to their former status, and last year they were allowed to play in the Nationals once again. The other team to play in the Nationals was Indian Airlines, who qualified through the Inter-Institutional tournament. Obviously, not much thought had gone into deciding whether an institution should be allowed to play in an inter-State event. Otherwise, this now-you're-in-then-you're-out operation would not have continued. There were suggestions that the inter-State events be called the national championships, so that they were not confined to States. But this idea has fallen on deaf ears

In fact, this ambivalent policy affects the players in a rather peculiar way. If a player is employed in an institution, should he be considered as affiliated to that institution, or does his primary affiliation remain with the State Association? Who has the jurisdiction over a player, his State Association or his institution? What happens if being registered with his State Association, he wants to play for his institution in the Nationals? What, if his employers do not grant him leave to play for his State Association?

If the institutions play in the national championships, these questions now loom larger than before. The problem surfaced during the Nationals last year when the Maharashtra Association and the Railways Sports Control Board clashed over the question of jurisdiction and affiliation of players. The State unit claimed that a certain player was theirs, while the Railway authorities opined to the contrary. The State unit said that the player had played for them the previous year and had not sought a transfer to his employers' team. The institution said that it was not a State and, therefore, there was no question of seeking transfer. The then Technical Committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) went by precedents—that the Railways had always sought and given transfers to their players.

At the Nationals itself, thanks to lobbying by interested parties and there being an important election in the offing, rules, precedents and principles took a ducking Not only did the concerned player end on the sidelines, but another also was not allowed to take part in a vital play-off to placate the other side.

A logical consequence to this incident would have been rectification of the rules immediately Far from taking a firm decision, this year too, the TTFI has left the rules wide open to interpretation Ironically, both the Railways and the Maharashtra Association went ahead with their decisions to punish the offending players A special committee, formed by the TTFI, came up with a hasty "You-drop-the-matter-and-so-will-they" compromise. The special committee was expected to recommend a way out of the problem But, nothing significant has come from it so far, and more players will have to carry the can in future.

Last year's Technical Committee of the TTFI recommended that the Inter-Institutional tournament must be completed by October 31 of the next year. That is the last date for seeking transfer of players. The two institutions eligible to play in the Nationals should immediately announce the teams, and the remaining players of them would automatically be permitted to play for their State Associations. This idea too has been thrown out

And so the players are back to confusion again Parthiv Vyas, for example, who won the Maharashtra State title last week at Nanded, asked whether he would play for his institution or his State association. He indicated that he was recruited by Indian Airlines, and that if Indian Airlines qualified for the Nationals, he would have to play for them He was, thereafter, not considered for the Maharashtra team.

Now comes the crunch. Indian Airlines (IAC) is not directly eligible to play in the Nationals TTFI rules say that Railways and one more team from among the institutions will be permitted to play in the Nationals. Now, if IAC does not qualify and they are not very likely to what happens to Vyas and his team-mates? Will they sit idle during the team event? And suppose IAC qualifies—have they got the transfers in time? Suppose the State associations refuse to give permisssion to the selected players to play for the institutions—will they go through the same mess as last year's?

More disconcerting, the Railways, who have direct entry into the Nationals, have not yet announced their team Then at least the other Railway players could be free to be selected for their respective State associations.

It is really a matter of concern that the TTFI has failed to show any foresight on this issue

I am surprised that the players' associations are totally unaware of this situation which affects so many of their members These are the issues to which they must be awake, and not the petty matters over which they dawdle away their time. Unless some quick, corrective measures are adopted, I am afraid there will only be last minute ad-hoc compromises. No one, I am sure, least of all the players, will gain from them

Sportsworld Exclusive

The problems of cricket are not insoluble

Violence on the field can only be curbed if there is a genuine desire by all concerned to do so. Former Pakistan captain ASIF IQBAL says that the rules need to be made more stringent

OVER the past three or four years I have repeatedly expressed the opinion that cricket has experienced its industrial revolution and has become, in every sense of the word, a competitive modern industry This assertion has been made not with regret, but with hope and pride, for I have genuinely felt that it is only by becoming an industry that it can survive, develop and expand Nothing has changed my mind and I am convinced that if cricket is to act like a living organism, it must learn to react like one It could never do so in the narrow shell in which I had, at one stage, thought it was doomed to serve its existence I know what I am talking about for I have played cricket at the international level for a remuneration of approximately 60 pence per day—an aspect of the 'good old days' which is all too easily forgotten

In that sort of a set-up, I did not see how Pakistan or any third world country could ever truly be on the world cricket map except through a fortuitous coincidence of circumstances and if there were only two or at most three countries playing cricket at the topmost level, the game was finished Many of the factors, which threaten such a situation, still exist and it will be a long long time before the fight is won But, if it is the game that is of primary importance rather than those who administer it, these changes must come preferably sooner than later

Dennis Lillee's action in kicking the Pakistan captain Javed Miandad was absolutely deplorable and about that there cannot be two opinions What I would like to refute is the contention that it was the direct by-product of what is sometimes contemptuously called 'professionalism.' It is not the professionalism which produces the McEnroes and Lillees of modern sport it is rather the lax and often selfish attitude of those who administer these sports which is really responsible for these problems

Needless to say that if laxity and selfishness are mixed with pomposity, the end result is bound to be pretty odious, to say the least And if that is not enough add to it the fact that most of these bodies and organisations are answerable to nobody while engaged in their feverish fight to guard every single one of those tiny privileges which are based on a system of moral and geo-political values which, though they may have served admirably once upon a time, cannot and should not be dragged into the helmet age After all, if England and Australia are to have the power of veto in the imperial cricket conference (note the word 'imperial'), there is little reason why on the same basis Greece should not exercise the same imperial prerogative in the International Olympic Committee. The latter proposition sounds potently absurd and yet the former is not only a fact of life, but accepted as the natural and perhaps even inevitable order of things.

It has been my experience that most organisations which control cricket on the national level rarely practise the morals they preach. Bob Willis calmly walked away after leaving a Pakistani nightwatchman smeared with blood Nothing happened to him. Sylvester Clarke almost killed a young spectator



Sylvester Clarke—Nearly killed a spectator



Javed Miandad—Lillee's action in kicking him was absolutely deplorable

in Pakistan for throwing an orange peel at him and was none the worse for having come within a whisker of committing what the good book describes as culpable homicide. The record goes back to 1955 when members of an MCC A team 'playfully' threw umpire Idris Beg into a tub of near freezing water That team included Peter Richardson, Brian Close, Ken Barrington, Jim Parks, Tony Lock, Alan Moss—all of whom duly went on to win full England colours. I happen to remember a Test match in 1974 at Lord's in which we were the victims of a palpably unjust umpiring decision when we were asked to bat on a wicket which had been damaged almost beyond recognition due to faulty covering What made it doubly difficult to accept the decision as a genuine error of judgement was the fact that the umpires had all the time in the world to decide on the matter and that it was not something which was over in one fleeting fraction of a second I shudder to imagine what would have been the consequences if we too had decided to play ducky in the bathtub with Messers Elliott and Constant



Dennis Lillee—Could he kick Mike Brearley or Ian Botham?



Bob Willis—no compassion for his victims

Lillee knew what he was doing, for he has been around for some time Big boy as he is, I would like to see him try and kick Mike Brearley or Ian Botham, although I am sure he would have dearly loved to do so for the tensions are far greater when you are losing and away from home rather than when you are winning and playing at home. That, of course, presupposes the exclusion of tensions not connected with the game, but even Lillee can hardly offer pre-menstrual tension as an excuse And yet, for an act as deplorable as this, does the Australian board honestly think that suspension from two one-day games will be deterrent enough? One understands that it is important to win the series and perhaps even more important to have an Australian hold the world record of taking the highest number of wickets in Test cricket But if these are the priorities, let us then be prepared to pay the price, for there is a price and it is still to be paid The manager and players of the Pakistan team may have agreed to treat the matter as closed and it is an extremely magnanimous gesture on their part But no amount of wishful thinking can ever expect that the matter will end here.

The problems of cricket are not insoluble provided there is a genuine desire to solve them and not to use them as whipping posts for trends in the game which some people feel are undesirable. The much-mooted idea of neutral umpires will go a long way in eliminating this sort of nonsense. Even the idea of a neutral observer is a good one and it could be tied with a Central Administrative Body to which each regular member of the ICC sends one representative The Central Body should have the power to decide on all matters or disputes referred to it by the umpires and the neutral observers and the boards should be bound to follow the directives of the Central Body The system of appointment of umpires also appears to be in desperate need for revision, for as long as the umpires are dependant on the boards for their livelihood, it is juvenile to expect them to be impartial The entire system just depends far too much on the goodness of human nature and that is a commodity the demand of which vastly exceeds supply

Professionalism does not imply the exclusion of a code of ethics It only needs a body of people who are honest enough to formulate such a code and then enforce it in a manner whereby the emphasis is on doing justice rather than conveying the impression that it is done If that is too tall an order, let us not blame professionalism for it. The problem, in that case is much deeper and will ultimately affect many more important aspects of man's relationship with his fellow beings

Australia do it again

DAVID McMAHON reports from Melbourne

TEST cricket, so they say, is full of glorious uncertainties. And if ever there was a Test that bore this saying out, it was the second clash between Pakistan and Australia of the current series

Put in to bat by Greg Chappell on a glorious batting wicket, Pakistan managed only a meagre 291 Australia, following a good start by their openers, a brilliant double century by Greg Chappell, and substantial knocks by her fornline batsmen, declared at 9 for 512. Pakistan, struggling to save the Test and retain the chance of tying the series in the third and final meeting, started well, faltered, found the momentum again and then crashed for 223 on the last ball before tea, leaving Australia only three runs for victory.



Greg Chappell—ruthless to the bowlers

ALTHOUGH Greg Chappell won the toss, he decided to send Pakistan into bat first. This action drew a lot of fire from Keith Miller, who said later that he could not imagine how the Australian captain had decided to give the tourists first strike on such a good batting wicket. But Chappell had the last laugh anyway, as Pakistan collapsed against the hostile Dennis Lillee Miandad must have hoped for a sizable total on a pitch such as this, but he had to be content with only 291

It was Chappell himself who struck the first blow dismissing opener Mohsin Khan for only 11, with the scoreboard showing 40 But worse was to befall the Pakistanis even as Mudassar Nazar soldiered on, trying to build an innings in partnership with veteran Majid Khan, promoted to the number three slot for this Test

But Lillee came into his own at this stage, slicing through the top half of the Pakistani innings, with figures of 5 for 81 He started by having Mudassar caught behind by Marsh, continued to have Majid caught by Chappell, bowled Miandad and Zaheer Abbas and had Wasim Raja caught by Laird. The scalp of Raja, incidentally, marked his 300th Test wicket and Lillee was surrounded by jubilant team-mates as he congratulated Laird on the catch, which came off a skied hook It was only at the end of the over that Lillee doffed his cap to acknowledge the cheers from the galleries

At the end of the innings his tally stood at 301 Test wickets in only 56 Tests, but, perhaps, his greatest pleasure derived from the fact that he took the wicket of Javed Miandad. He started by greeting the rival skipper with a scorching delivery that kicked into his left shoulder and 53 minutes later Lillee had taken the wicket he wanted most of all, as a short ball deflected off Miandad's bat onto his leg stump It was perhaps not one of Lillee's best bowling performances, but he certainly returned excellent figures and, more laudable, he behaved like a perfect sportsman.



Imran Khan—bowled like a chmapion

The Pakistanis certainly had the chance of taking a stranglehold on the match, but frittered away their chances to surrender for less than 300. Despite their reinforced batting line-up, the only ones who made any real impression on the Australian bowling were Zaheer Abbas and Wasim Raja who got 80 and 43 apiece These two came together with their side tottering on the brink at 4 for 111 and steered their team to a much more respectable total

Both batsmen were dropped in the course of their respective innings, but this does not detract from the fact that they both played fighting cricket Zaheer displayed the kind of form he had produced earlier this summer during the English season, while Raja, as usual, treated the bowling with disdain. It was precisely the kind of situation that both these batsmen thrive on, and the runs mounted as they grew in confidence Pakistan also had a great deal to thank Ejaz Faqih for. He held up the inevitable with an innings of 34 before he was bowled by Bruce Yardley, but that was the end as far as the tourists were concerned and then it was up to Miandad's bowlers to try to salvage some prestige.

AUSTRALIA dug themselves in on the second day losing only three wickets while ending the day only nine runs short of the tourists' first innings total Bruce Laird and Graeme Wood gave their side yet another good start posting 109 for the first wicket, but Imran Khan harried them throughout the day The two opening batsmen, however, were a sharp contrast in styles Laird, the hero of Australia's runaway victory against the West Indies earlier in the week, played a more subdued innings this time Against the West Indians he had gone for his strokes in brilliant fashion, but here he preferred to take his time and indeed was in some trouble against the fast bowlers

Graeme Wood on the other hand proved yet again that he is a dangerous batsman once he gets going This day, he played the hook and pull shots extremely well and hit two sixes, one of them a spectacular sweep off spinner Ejaz He was struck painfully on the elbow by Sarfraz in the latter's first over, but elected to play on and treated the Gabba crowd to some fireworks. He moved the score along in his usual aggressive fashion while Laird played second fiddle in a more dour fashion

Australia lost their first wicket when Ejaz bowling intelligently, although not always economically tempted Laird into a forcing stroke through mid-wicket where Zaheer Abbas pulled off a spectacular catch as he ran in from mid-on. But Australia were off to a flying start and Chappell and Wood took advantage of the not too sultry weather and the fact that the pitch was full of runs Although the ball tended to skid through low on certain occasions, the batsmen were in no real trouble as Miandad shuffled his bowlers around trying desperately to gain a breakthrough With the scoreboard showing 149, Wood surrendered his wicket while trying to hit a third six. Perhaps, in a moment of over-confidence, the opener cracked Wasim Raja over midwicket, but Mudassar Nazar only had to move in a few feet to take the catch.

Allan Border--brought back in to the fray but proved to be uncomfortable against Imran Khan





Lillee leads the team back after a fiery spell

The fall of the wicket brought Allan Border to the crease and the crowd were treated to a glorious battle between this talented young left-hander and Imran Khan, brought back into the fray by his captain Imran moved the ball in both directions even though it had lost its shine completely Border was usually subdued and the Pakistani bowler realised quickly that his adversary was uncomfortable against his pace and movement

Accordingly, Imran changed his tactics and switched over to bowling around the wicket—a play that unsettled Border completely. However, Chappell and Border still succeeded in putting on 70 runs at one run a minute, but Imran was soon to have the last laugh Border had played and missed outside his off-stump on a few occasions to angled deliveries and this had not escaped Imran's notice He brought one delivery into Border and then in the same over brought another off the pitch which the batsman chopped over his wicket.

Australia were three down for 219, but Chappell was well in command of the situation The Australian captain has received a lot of stick recently following his scores of 22 and 6 in his country's first win against Pakistan earlier this month and failure of 3 and 1 in the one-day internationals so far. But Chappell was at his best this afternoon and though he crouched beside the pitch on occasions he was merciless on the bowling It was really the end of the drought for Chappell as he carved out another regal polished innings, frustrating all Miandad's bowlers and expertly breaking up the field with brilliant strokeplay. His driving and cutting was a treat to watch and his precision and variation could not have done very much for the morale of the tourists The pressure began to tell on the Pakistanis and their fielding became ragged, their bowling deteriorated and their shoulders began to droop in the field as Chappell and his deputy Hughes plundered the bowling. Australia ended the day at a **comfortable position with Hughes on 26 and Chappell on 89 but looking good for many more.**

TWO men dominated this an absorbing day of cricket even though play was cut short by a thunderstorm. Those who had come to watch good cricket went home more than satisfied by the performances of Gregory Stephen Chappell and Imran Khan

The Australian skipper marched onto his century in an impressive style, but even as he crossed the milestone he refused to let up his concentration Unaffected Chappell continued to treat the Gabba crowd to one of the most technically perfect innings seen It was obvious that he intended to capitalise on the excellent start made by Laird and Wood, obtain a first innings total of 500 plus and thereby avoid batting in the fourth innings of the match.

The pitch continued to play true and on a day when the Pakistani bowlers toiled without reward Imran Khan bowled like a champion following up on his excellent showing earlier in the Australian innings. He performed like a man inspired in front of the Sunday crowd. He had Hughes worried on a few occasions before he bowled one that cut in quicker than the Australian captain had expected Hughes offered a perfect defence to the delivery, but he shaped up a fraction of a second too late and saw his off-stump bend back

Dirk Wellham, replacing an injured Graham Yallop, joined Chappell at the wicket, but Imran did not take long to discover that the 22-year-old went into his shell when forced to go onto the back foot on the few occasions that he erred Wellham punished Pakistan severely, but he had fewer problems against Sarfraz and Sikander as he inched towards the 50 he so desperately needed to retain his place in the side But Imran was to have his reward. Yet another delivery that nipped in from outside the off stump found the gap between bat and pad and Wellham's bails were removed neatly—another classic dismissal in a glorious day's cricket With Wellham gone Marsh was probably under instructions to keep his head down until his captain got his double century and he did his job well

But Chappell, on 187, gave his first and last chance. He hit down the pitch to Sarfraz, but failed to keep the ball on the gound and the bowler bending low on his followthrough suffered the misfortune of seeing the ball slip through his fingers A few deliveries later Chappell had another narrow escape when a delivery from Imran narrowly missed getting a nick and he permitted himself a wry smile. Before he resumed his task on 199, with the crowd holding its breath, Imran rapped Chappell on the pads to the accompaniment of a raucous appeal. But the umpire turned it down and a few deliveries later Chappell had completed his fourth double century in Test cricket. He doffed his cap, raised

his bat and gratefully accepted a sip from a can of beer that appeared as if from nowhere, as every single person at the Gabba rose to his or her feet to salute him. He was to fall just one run later, ironically enough not to his chief tormentor Imran Khan, but to Sikander Marsh then threw caution to the winds and while Bruce Yardley played a strangely sedate innings, the Australian wicketkeeper began belting the ball in the manner only he can. He hooked, he pulled, he drove powerfully and devastatingly. True, those were a few ungainly thumps thrown in for good measure, but the runs were mounting once again when rain gave the Pakistanis some respite.



Bruce Laird—subdued innings

WITH the exit of Chappell, the task of Rodney Marsh and Bruce Yardley was to accelerate the scoring rate, step up the first innings lead considerably and give Australia the chance of snatching a victory despite the hours lost to rain. As it happened, rain was to interrupt play again but not before the Australians had crossed the 500-run mark Chappell's tailenders chipped in with some breezy knocks to reach the target the Australian captain must have hoped for at the start of his side's innings and then it was all up to the Australian bowlers to try and get a stranglehold on the match With a 221 run first innings lead, Chappell must have been eyeing the approaching clouds with some dismay, for an interruption after the declaration would give the tourists some breathing space and time to gather their wits

But the sky grew progressively darker and play was eventually called off because of poor light Shortly afterwards, the rain came pelting down as it had the previous day and the Pakistanis rejoiced in the safety of the dressing room as the Australians glared at the impenetrable bank of thunderclouds above

Mudassar and Mohsin had tackled the new ball well and though beaten on a couple of occasions, they showed that they were using their powers of observation. The ball had done some strange things towards the end of Australia's innings, keeping rather low and making back-foot play something of a hazard. It was fascinating to watch Chappell's opening bowlers trying to force the two batsmen back, but the latter handled the situation both capably and confidently till the weather rendered further play impossible

MUDASSAR and Mohsin continued the good work, batting comfortably against everything Greg Chappell's men could throw at them, but fortunes were to fluctuate in an incredibly dramatic manner on this day Just as it looked as if Pakistan's opening batsmen were digging in, Dennis Lillee chipped in with two quick wickets that rocked the tourists

The first one to go was the dogged Mudassar who was playing exactly the kind of innings required in such a situation Pakistan needed to keep their wickets intact if they hoped to save the Test and Mudassar put his head down, never flinching from his task But Lillee broke through with the second delivery of his third over, when he got a ball to rear back suddenly and it was all Mudassar could do to get out of the way However, the ball found the edge of his bat and the agile Bruce Laird at short leg dived to snap it up off the ground

Mohsin followed suit shortly after, falling to the Marsh-Lillee combination, a duo that has combined in altogether 82 dismissals in Test cricket. Thus, in the course of only 16 deliveries, Lillee had removed both opening batsmen A scoreboard that had looked respectable at 0 for 72 suddenly began to appear a trifle shaky at 2 for 90, but the tide of fortune had not finished swinging.



Zaheer Abbas—displayed his earlier element

The experienced Majid Khan, who has been rather short of runs on this tour, played an utterly indefinable shot to a ball from off spinner Yardley and paid the penalty as Chappell took the catch at slip In the same over, danger man Zaheer, who had top scored in his side's first innings, was also dismissed, leaving Pakistan on the ropes With Majid gone for 15 and Zaheer for a duck, Pakistan's hopes of saving the Test were receeding rapidly

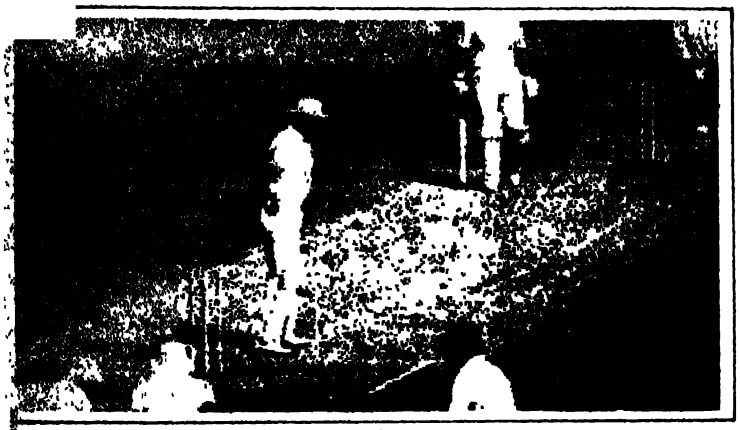
Facing a first innings deficit of 221, they were now four down for only 115 with the last two recognised batsmen, Miandad and Raja, at the crease. However, both men adopted the tactics so successfully—if not permanently—employed by their openers and although Raja reverted to type on two occasions when he hit flashy strokes, Miandad ordered him to concentrate instead on the task of survival

The runs began to mount and although they did not count for much at this stage, the shoulders of the Australian bowlers began to sag and Dennis Lillee, in particular, bowled four overs of shocking stuff Just as he was in danger of being booed by the crowd, he scalped both men in the same amazing over, trapping Miandad lbw and bowling Raja Pakistan plummeted to six for 178 and though Ejaz played spiritedly for an innings of 21, that was not much he could do to hold the Australians off

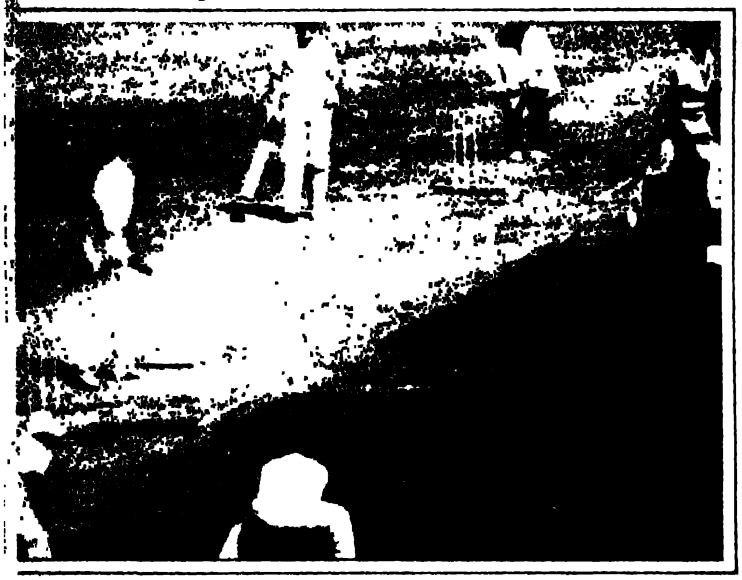
In conclusion, it would only be right to add that the last two wickets were claimed by the man who had bowled with so much fire but no luck Yes, Jeff Thomson deserved his victims

TEN LITTLE ENGLISHMEN

On the last day of the Bombay Test all the wickets of the English batsmen fell to Kapil and Madan. Our photographer, NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA, captures the vital moments



Gooch caught behind off Kapil Dev



Tavare caught Gavaskar bowled Kapil Dev

Gower lbw Kapil Dev





Boycott lbw Madan Lal

Fletcher lbw Madan Lal





mburey caught Gavaskar bowled Madan Lal

aylor bowled Madan Lal





Botham caught Azad bowled Kapil Dev



Dilley bowled Madan Lal

The End Immediately after Willis is caught behind off Kapil Dev, the Indian players run towards the pavilion



MCC vs SOUTH ZONE

Two tons and a draw

ASHOK KAMATH reports from Hyderabad

If the touring England cricket team planned to make use of their engagement against the South Zone, at Hyderabad on December four, five and six, for batting practice (in the light of their showing at the Bombay Test the previous week), then the campaign could be described as only partly successful. By the same token if the national selectors were hoping to windowshop at Hyderabad for possible replacements for the rest of the Tests in the series, one is afraid that the cupboard appeared pretty bare--three individual fifties notwithstanding.

The match was drawn although a certain amount of tedium was avoided by the home team's declaration some 30 minutes before lunch on the final day. The target the visitors were to reach was still- 303 to get in 175 minutes and the 20 mandatory overs. England ended up with 223 for four.

Memories of the match will almost exclusively centre around the classy unbeaten 119 by Graham Gooch, the diametrically opposite half century by Boycott in the first innings, Keith Fletcher's 108 and Mike Gatting's 71 in the visitors' second innings. With 61 runs in the kitty, thanks to Fletcher's generous declaration, South Zone managed 241 for seven before skipper Patel applied closure. The home team's second innings was built around the 63 run fourth wicket partnership between Vijay Mohanraj and Brijesh Patel. Emburey evicted Mohanraj for 59 when he spun one prodigiously to spreadeagle the leg and middle stumps. Emburey then got rid of Patel, leg before while attempting a sweep, when the Karnataka batsman had 68 to his credit. If one was not exactly ecstatic about these two half centuries, it was simply because for the most part Fletcher chose to operate with a one-and-a-half spin attack—left armer John Emburey from the pavilion end and Fletcher, yes Fletcher himself, bowling a euphemism for leg spin. Both the batsmen made best use of the bonus offered by the England captain and Patel got his 68 runs in a trifle more than even time, while Mohanraj spent twice as many minutes for his 59. Fletcher's success earlier—Narasimha Rao lbw—must have been quite flattering. In the end he returned with an analysis of one for 82 off 20 overs. Interestingly enough when Fletcher did replace himself with Cook, the latter disposed off Javaprakash and Meher Baba in his second over.

Reshuffling the normal batting order, the tourists opened their second innings with Fletcher and Gower. Gower did not last long, much to the disappointment of the crowd which was ostensibly looking forward to a good innings from him. Yadav, who had Gower caught behind by Reddi off the fifth ball of one of his overs, bowled his sixth ball after lunch and successfully claimed Geoff Cook leg before. Yadav was thus in line for a hat-trick which was foiled by the man who held the stage on the final day- Fletcher.

Fletcher and Gatting got together for a 154-run partnership for the third wicket. Though not in the same class as Gooch's century on the second day, Fletcher was nevertheless completely at ease, driving fluently against the spinners and giving respect on the few occasions it was due. His century was his 54th in first class cricket and without doubt it must have given him a happier frame for the Bangalore Test.

Gatting's 71 was over-shadowed by his skipper's effort but it lacked neither authority nor power in comparison. He looked good enough to get his hundred but he was out while trying to chop Rao square and only succeeded in snicking to Bharath Reddi. For South Zone, Yadav toiled hard for the three wickets he earned. He bowled 32 overs unchanged and was supported at the other end by Narasimha Rao who claimed the only other English wicket in the entire match. Bairy's hopes of staging an immediate comeback into the Test squad must have plummeted unimpressive as he was with both bat and ball.

The home team's movements on the field were by and large lackadaisical and this stood out in stark relief against those of the visitors.

SOUTH Zone's total of 247 for 9 at the end of the first day's play seemed respectable enough, though, arguably, they should have been in a happier position after being able to

Graham Gooch- first ton





Parry's Eclairs: The taste that's caught on...



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Parry's

make first use of a featherbed of a wicket Brijesh Patel led South Zone because of Vishwanath's indisposition and the lucky one to be accommodated in the final eleven was Tamil Nadu's V Sivaramakrishnan The left handed opening batsman could well have thumbed his nose at the selectors for relegating him to the reserves in the first instance, for it was he who lent a good deal of substance initially to the South Zone innings with a knock of 38—the second highest individual score in the first innings



Bob Willis—broke South Zone's backbone

One Test old K Srikkanth opened the innings with Sivaramakrishnan after Patel beat Keith Fletcher to the spin of the coin and, predictably, decided to bat In typically youthful exuberance, Srikkanth picked the fourth ball of the day off his toes to fine leg and 15 runs were on board after Lever had sent down the second over For all the fireworks he provided (four boundaries) in his knock of 21, the most exasperating aspect of this young man is the manner in which he gets out He jabbed indecisively at one from Willis and the ball carried to Gooch at first slip who took the catch knee high

In the course of his innings, Srikkanth almost repeated his second innings act in the Bombay Test which cost him his wicket This time he padded one to the region of the slips and indifferently stood out of his crease Gooch who fielded the ball at second slip, took a swipe at the stumps It is a different matter that Srikkanth managed to ground his bat on time Gooch in any case missed the stumps and the resultant overthrow over long on was credited as four leg byes One had thought that the manner in which Srikkanth was run out in the second innings of the Bombay Test had taught him a good lesson about straying from the shelter of crease Obviously it has not

Of Srikkanth's departure local boy Vijay Mohanraj joined Sivaramakrishnan By then Siva had got his eye in and in his own sedate manner he began collecting runs As long he was there he looked solid but at 38 he went back to one from Paul Allott and fell plumb in front of the wicket Mohanraj survived a lollipop of a chance to Fletcher off Willis off the first ball he faced Willis greeted the young man with one that got up awkwardly and Mohanraj could do no more than hang his bat to defend his torso The ball casually lobbed to behind of third slip and one felt that a man younger than Fletcher might have gobbled it comfortably Nevertheless, Mohanraj hung around and got his runs 20 in all—in dribs and drabs He found a more belligerent partner in Jayaprakash who came in on Sivaramakrishnan's exit Jayaprakash survived a fiery first ball from Allott but he soon settled down to give the first change bowler Gooch the stick In one over from the friendly paced Essex opening bat, Jayaprakash thrashed him for three successive fours and of the seven boundaries in his innings of 31, five were off Gooch

One hundred and five for two (off 25 overs) seemed a reasonable scoring rate Jayaprakash was mainly responsible for this but the slide of sorts began in the first hour of the post-lunch session Fletcher brought Willis from the Hill Fort end (the end from which John Lever and, later Allott could not get much purchase from) and that apparently did the trick In an inspired spell of hostile bowling, Willis broke the backbone of the South



Jayaprakash sent Gooch five times to the fence

Zone In that one post lunch spell Willis had Mohanraj groping defensively at one rearing at his throat and Gatting plucked the "Daisy" In almost identical fashion Willis got rid of Brijesh Patel and Jayaprakash and South Zone were 124 for five thereabouts In that spree of devastation, Willis conceded just five runs for the three wickets spread over six overs Patel failed to open his account and the nine balls he faced in all did not show him in confident light—helmet or no helmet

Patel's fellow Karnatakan Roger Binny, did little with the bat to enhance his prospects of staging a come back and he droodled 18 minutes before opening his account with a single Lever got him a little later when wicket keeper Jack Richards picked up a great snick off the bottom of the bat and at first slip's ankle level

Bharat Reddy was swindled by one from Lever outside his off-stump and for the second time, Richards did the





needful without much fuss (South Zone 140 for seven) It was then that three local heroes Narasimha Rao, Shivlal Yadav and Meher Baba came up with the great rescue act

Yadav, offering a confident bat at anything hurled at him stuck around to give fine company to his State skipper Rao The two put on 48 runs for the eighth wicket before Yadav fell, bowled by Emburey Yadav failed to pick the right line on a forward defensive stroke and had his off stump uprooted His 24 runs were invaluable and he shared the eighth wicket partnership with Rao a better recognised bat on equal terms After Yadav left at 188 Meher Baba better known for his left arm spinning abilities, played a neat impeccable innings of 31 Baba's first seven scoring strokes were all boundaries! In one over from Allott the Andhra skipper (who plays most of his league cricket in the Hyderabad league) thrashed the Lancashire medium fast for three consecutive fours—a classy drive over midwicket, a perfectly timed hook and a powerful square cut—strokes executed with such finesse that would have made a top flight batsman proud of

Narasimha Rao's 51 not out was the kind of innings needed in the hour His defence was impeccable and after beginning out with a couple of flourishing boundaries off Allott he sobered down and did not seem in any trouble either against Lever and Allott's pace or Emburey's left arm spin Rao shared two fruitful part



Keith Fletcher sparkling century

nerships—first with Yadav for the eighth wicket which yielded 48 runs and then, an identical tally with Meher Baba for the ninth wicket Rao's was a very responsible innings which, to a large extent, kept South Zone's head above water He drove a slower one from Lever to mid on for a single to reach his 50 in the last over of the day The next morning skipper Brijesh Patel declared the innings closed at the overnight score of 247 for 9

The first day's bowling honours without doubt went to Bob Willis In one devastating second spell in the post-lunch session he broke the spine of the home team with some sustained hostile bowling Finding the prodder Vijay Mohanraj managing to survive by his wits, Willis changed to bowling round the wicket and got results immediately He got the ball to rear up nastily and was faster than in the pre-lunch session when he was bowling from the pavilion end All his victims fell fending off balls that "jumped" Lever, who was not very accurate, ended up with two wickets but it was John Emburey who was all neat and tidy while claiming 2 for 38 England opened with Boycott and Gooch and by lunch (on the second day) they were 116 without the openers being separated

ENGLAND'S opening batsmen Geoff Boycott and Graham Gooch were a study in contrast The peerless plodder Boycott gave the South Zone opening bowling attack of Roger Binny and K Bharath Kumar far more respect than was due Boycott could have been facing Lillee and Thommo on a nasty Perth wicket for all we knew—such was the approach he adopted On the other hand, Gooch was more realistic in his assessment of the opening bowlers and the state of the pitch He was particularly severe to Binny and dur

Sidelights

WITH so many present and ex Test cricketers wielding the pen these days, we wondered whether former Test cricketer B S Chandrasekhar was in Hyderabad on a reporting assignment No, he smiled he came to see the match 'just like that

However, Chandra's indirect effort is indulging in writing of sorts in his forthcoming autobiography Chandra said that the book was 'in the final stages' and though he was not prepared to discuss the book at the moment one gathered that the tentative title of the life and times of Chandrasekhar would be 'Chandra!' (A la Jeff Thomson's book 'Thommo") Will the book be laden with 'controversies'? A cryptic smile was all the reply it elicited from Chandra

RAMAN SUBBA ROW, the pleasant mannered manager of the touring England team, did not think it was possible to snatch a few hours during his stay in Hyderabad to visit an old aunt of his in Bapatla near Guntur, some 500 miles away "This aunt of mine is the youngest sister of my father She must be around 80 years old and a little before we left England, I had a lovely letter from her I promised to look her up during the tour, but I don't think I will be able to make it from Hyderabad," Row told us at the nets preceding the opening day of the three-day match. Row said he would try to steal away during the rest day of the Madras Test to visit this old aunt

Miss Chandrika Nayudu, daughter of the legendary C.K Nayudu, was in Hyderabad as one of the All India Radio commentators for the match. Miss Nayudu, who teaches in a school in Indore, told us that it was the second international cricket match commentary that she was doing. She was on the panel of a zonal match against a visiting team four years ago and has done one Ranji Trophy match commentary we asked her age and she came up with that moth eaten line: "Never ask a woman her age No, I would not like to tell you my age" We thought our women had come a long way Obviously many, still have not

Incidentally, I checked with John Thicknesse of the Standard and he said, "I don't think we have had a lady giving running commentaries for BBC"

DOING a Randall during the post lunch session of the opening day was David Gower Gower hit it off very well with the crowd on the Eastern stands and enlivened the rather dull proceedings on the field to a certain extent He indulged in a bit of catching practice with this section of the spectators, inviting them to hurl the 'jam' fruit which he returned to the crowd with his best compliments. The only missile he retained with him was a banana which he devoured right on the field and returned the skin to the donor with thanks The crowd loved him for it. "Gower, Gower" was the chant for a while but, following the tea break, Gower did not continue his good-hearted pranks with his fans. Apparently, Fletcher and manager Subba Row must have given him a piece of advice about not overdoing it

THE Hyderabad Cricket Association has an ambitious plan on the drawing boards to acquire a stadium it could call its own. A total of Rs 4 crores is said to be the budget for the new stadium on the Gymkhana Grounds. With Tests in non-major centres like Bangalore and Kanpur slated to be "rotated", one should imagine that the HCA will strongly bid for a Test at Hyderabad next time to augment funds for the proposed stadium.

A K

For your record book

December 28-29 3rd Test
DELHI IN THE PAST

DELHI has also been a lucky Test venue for England in that they have won two (the last 2) of the five Tests that have been played there. England won in 1972-73 and 1976-77 and drew in 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1964.

YEAR	TOSS	BRIEF SCORES WITH RESULTS
1951-52	England	Drawn (England 203, 368-6, India 418-6 decl.)
1961-62	India	Drawn (England 256-3, India 486)
1964	India	Drawn (England 451, India 344, 463-4)
1972-73	India	England won by 6 wkts. (England 200, 208-4; India 173, 233)
1976-77	England	England won by an innings and 25 runs (England 381, India 122, 234)

HIGHEST TOTALS

For England	451	4th Test	1964.
For India	486	3rd Test	1961-62

LOWEST TOTALS

For England	200	1st Test	1972-73
For India	122	1st Test	1976-77

CENTURIES

FOR ENGLAND (4)

179	D L. Amiss	1st Test	1976-77
151	M C Cowdrey	4th Test	1964
138 n o.	A J. Watkins	1st Test	1951-52
113 n.o.	K F Barrington	3rd Test	1961-62

FOR INDIA (7)

203 n.o	Nawab of Pataudi	4th Test	1964
189 n.o	V L Manjrekar	3rd Test	1961-62
164 n.o	V S Hazare	1st Test	1951-52
154	V M Merchant	1st Test	1951-52
127	M L. Jaisimha	3rd Test	1961-62
105	Hanumant Singh	4th Test	1964
100	B K. Kunderan	4th Test	1964

5 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS OR 10 WICKETS IN A MATCH

FOR ENGLAND

7—46	J Lever	1st Test	1976-77
6—45	G Arnold	1st Test	1972 73

FOR INDIA

8—79	B S Chandrasekhar	1st Test	1972-73
6—91	S G Shinde	1st Test	1951-52

COMPILED BY VIJAYAN BALA

ing this phase of the match he made batting appear so ridiculously simple. The only thing inelegant about Gooch was his stance, but the fluency with which he scored off the medium pacers, while his much senior partner hummed and hawed, was a great treat. The 50 of the innings came in almost even time and Gooch had scored 41 of them. In fact, even when Bharath Kumar was all awry in line and length and many a time forcing keeper Bharath Reddy to collect the ball at boot's level, Boycott played three successive maidens. Srikkanth replaced his brother-in-law Bharath Kumar without making any impression in two overs.

With the advent of the spinners, Gooch quietened down a bit. He did look set for a century before lunch until then. It was only the last over before lunch that Boycott himself seemed tired of the monotony of plodding he stepped out to drive Yadav on the off, but that got him only two runs. In fact the first authentic stroke he executed was when he was in his 40's—his Yadav pull fetched him four runs.

At lunch England reached 116 with Gooch (79) and Boycott (28) still there. By some strange alchemy Gooch seemed out of grip after lunch. Some intelligent and tight bowling by Shivlal Yadav only explained part of the story. Gooch in his mid 80's preferred to get his runs through singles and spent more than half an hour in the 'nervous 90's'. Gooch remained unbeaten with 119 (18 fours) and Boycott with 55 when Keith Fletcher's most surprising declaration came some 20 minutes before tea. One imagined that the Englishmen would be keen on using this match for batting practice. And the declaration was even more surprising because England were still 61 runs behind the South Zone total.



Shivlal Yadav—bowled very light

Srikkanth and Sivaramakrishnan began the second innings campaign with a bang. These two Tamil Nadu openers who have in the last season shared many big opening partnerships, entertained the spectators with a repeat performance. Srikkanth especially treated Bob Willis with contempt stepping out to drive him over mid off and hooking powerfully a bouncer in his first over itself and 2 of his 31 runs came off the bowling of Willis and included a gem of a hook shot for six. But the big man eventually got him two balls later, after Fletcher removed Gatting from shortleg posted him deep and moved Allott to fine leg. Willis bounced one at Srikkanth and the latter fell for the open invitation to hook. Allott got underneath the ball a few yards inside the fine leg fence. (South Zone 10 for one



Mehras sacked from DDCA

The ouster has come at last. After years of friction between the players' union, led by MP Kamal Nath and Bishan Singh Bedi, and the supreme Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) the former's efforts have been attended by success. In a bloodless coup, a few days ago, the Indian Cricket Board stepped in to restore order and to conduct the Delhi Test. K.R. WADHWANEY highlights the infighting and the present stage of the situation.

HOW have the mighty fallen! Ram Prakash Mehra and his nephew Kewal Mehra, sole monarchs of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) for more than two decades are not only facing near annihilation from cricket but they may be subjected to further punishment, if the charges of misappropriation, being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are proved

The Mehras, a refugee family from Lahore, are themselves to blame for the disgrace that they are undergoing at present. Alleged authors of converting a cricket body—meant for promotion of the game and character-building of the youth—from a private limited company into a personal affair, the Mehras maltreated the public, insulted Ranji Trophy and Test players and humiliated sports journalists, who were for years faithful to them The cup of complaints against them was filled to the brim "I admit I have erred It is all a matter of destiny. Someone belonging to your tribe led me up the garden path before leaving me in the lurch " R P Mehra told me, ruefully

If he had paid heed to players' demands some two years back, he might have lost one or two office-bearers, but could have stayed in power because players were not against him "Yes, it was a blunder I always thought it was yet another storm in the tea cup," he admitted But the Mehras, in a mistaken notion, felt that the formation of the rival body— the Delhi State Cricketers Association (DSCA)—spearheaded by Congress(I) MP Kamal Nath and former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi, would die down Instead of mending their ways and practising the dictum of 'live and let live', the Mehras became more stubborn and antagonised more people

They called Kamal Nath names, shouted from housetops that they would teach the arrogant Sikh (Bedi) a lesson, and organised a tirade against sports journalists by making fictitious and fabricated complaints to their editors Such were the dealings of the Mehras that there was no option left for self-respecting people but to unite together with the sole object of throwing the Mehras lock, stock and barrel An innocuous battle became a war of attrition and players, led by selfless leader-cricketer Bedi, triumphed. Kewal resorted to all kinds of tactics to undermine players and the Press, not realising that this bubble would burst some day "Yes, he has been the root cause for all trouble You know my terms with him," R P Mehra admitted.

Mr S K. Wankhede, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, and many other officials are naturally grieved that R P Mehra, former Board president, and Kewal Mehra vice president should be on the "mat". While R P Mehra gets the benefit of being no more than "naive" in many respects, Board officials are convinced that Kewal Mehra is solely responsible for the DDCA falling on bad days Mr Wankhede agreed that no one, however big, powerful and influential, could displease and annoy all sections and survive Four important officials of the DDCA, the two Mehras, K K Bagai (treasurer) and R Saran (sports secretary), are reported to have resigned It is not known whether they have relinquished their offices in protest against the Board's decision to organise the Test or they have been told that the CBI probe had found them guilty on many counts

Meanwhile, a special committee has been appointed for conducting the third Test at Delhi The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Wankhede, has Mr I S Bindra as the convenor and Mr P M Rungta as treasurer S.K Wankhede is a seasoned politician and a good public relations man He feels, and rightly so, that nothing should go amiss at any centre Test or zonal fixtures—during his tenure Aware that the Mehra family have fallen from grace with the players, public and Press and they would bring greater disrepute to the Board, he and his working committee decided that the Delhi Test should be organised under the direct supervision of the Board

Mr I S Bindra, special assistant to the Home Minister, Zail Singh, is young, dynamic and president of the Punjab Cricket Association He is known for his organising ability and has provided some stability and character to the PCA, which was in the doldrums not long ago And about Mr P M Rungta, the former president of the Board, it is nothing new to organise a Test match.

The exit of the Mehras should be an object lesson or warning to the bosses of many other State associations to set their homes in order before another Bedi can launch a grim battle against their undemocratic functioning and anarchy

Bishan Singh Bedi—efforts successful



ASIA PACIFIC GOLF

Japan too good

IT was indeed a rare sight for the golfing fraternity The best amateurs from ten out of 17 member countries of the Asian Golf Confederation congregated at the Old Course of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club vying for the Normura Cup—a team championship competition on the lines of the Eisenhower Cup It took India nearly two decades to play host. It will now take more than thirty years for the biennial tournament to come back to this country And, most probably, Delhi will bid for it.

This competition calls for true skill—no flukes or loose play—because each player from each four-player team plays four rounds in four days and out of a total team contribution of 16 rounds, the best 12 are taken into account—the best three cards each day.

The highlights of the tournament were Japan's retaining the title—the sixth time since the tournament's inception in 1963—and India's superb recovery from the dumps Incidentally, India had been participating in the Normura Cup from 1967 and had wrested the title once, in 1973, from the formidable Japan by three strokes in Indonesia But, on the whole, India's display was rather consistent, actually mediocre if we are to judge by the results over the years.

Sakata in action



TARAPADA BANERJEE

In view of the Asian Games next year there is cause for cheer for the Indian team as it has talented youngsters in national champion Rajeev Mohta, Brandon D'Souza and Ranjit Nanda and, of course, we can never forget the veteran international Ashok Malik, who has taken part for the fifth time in this competition—the sad part being that he was not in the winning team in 1973 If there is a sincere effort by the Indian Golf Union and the Centre to give the young players including Lakshman 'Bunny' Singh some international experience then India can surely be a medal prospect.

The evidence was the recent amateur meet at the RCGC where the young players who were initially overawed by the foreign field and finished ninth on the first day came back into reckoning and subsequently stood fourth

Perhaps, the result would have been more encouraging had Ashok Malik played better. He later confessed that something was wrong in his swings and rued the fact that there was no one to advise him

But do we really have anyone who can point Ashok Malik's defect? Said the veteran. "I could do little for the team. But the juniors, especially Brandon and Rajeev, played really well. I think India can do well in the Asian Games provided these juniors get more experience."

True, Rajeev Mohta played extremely well In fact, he improved each round. In the third round, he returned with a par card of 73 (there were only six par rounds and only 12 sub par scores out of a total 160 rounds). But he did bring the best score on the final day of 2 under par Teeing off last in the three ball with Japanese Tetsuo Sakata and Australian Ossie Moore, who were fighting for the individual honours, Rajeev was seen in his element by eclipsing both the foreigners by some immaculate golf for a 71. Unfortunately, he missed a par on the 8th, 12th and the short 13th

But the 12th witnessed some drama and play was held up when he pulled his drive into the trees on the left. The ball was in a bad spot for him to take a stance He asked for relief under the golf rules. But after much discussion the committee turned down his plea. However, he made a valiant effort to save his par but his putt didn't help Despite that, he did exhibit one of the finest shots on the tough, pin-positioned, 17th and excelled. Mohta's course of the game changed on the 15th with an amazing long putt from the rough for an eagle. There was no stopping thereafter and he only missed his putts on the 16th and 18th

As for Sakata and Moore it was difficult going While the Japanese set the course ablaze on the opening day with a 69 followed by a three over in the second round, and coming back two under in the third put him in contention for the individual prize, the Australian had two sub par cards of 70 and 71 with a two over in the second round to level on 216. But in the final tussle, Moore who took an initial lead fell back in the 11th when Sakata produced a stunning shot from the edge of the tank that helped him reach the green and par the hole Actually, Moore lost the race due to aweful putting

As for New Zealand who took a lead of four under 215 over defenders Japan on the first day through contribution of Colin Taylor (70) and Neil Gaskin (71) could do little against Asia's best amateurs in the subsequent rounds only to finish second—22 strokes behind Japan Australia and India claimed the third and fourth positions, respectively

Said the Kiwi non-playing captain Mr Wardell: "The course was good but it's a pity that it was hard We thought it would be greener and softer We lost because we just kept hitting and put ted badly. Another reason is when we saw so many tanks it made us uneasy and thought that we may face a lot of trouble though there weren't much As for the Japanese they were very good They beat us because they indulged in a lot more stroke-play events than we did. Roughly they play about 30 or more stroke competitions, whereas we have about five tournaments annually "

This Asia Pacific meet was the Kiwis' second participation and it was a privilege that they came to play in India for the very first time since they began to play golf some 120 years ago "It took us nearly 120 years to get to India, the oldest outside the United Kingdom, and probably it will take us another century to play here," concluded Mr Wardell with a smile.

Said the Japanese manager, Mr Sansaku Tamira "The Old Course is beautiful Every hole here calls for precision golf. The reason we won the tenth Asia Pacific title was because we had good rest as we had nothing to do after playing Here, the course is harder than the ones in Japan. It tires your legs as if we are playing 27 holes rather than 18. My players did a great job In fact, we got the best three scores on the first three days. It is the only team where all four—Sakata (69), Katoh (69), Naito (70) and Kanatani (72) returned sub par cards."

SUBHASH SARCAR

INDIA AT THE KING'S CUP

Injury hit us badly

India's chief coach P. K. BANERJEE analyses the performance of the Indian team in the tournament

EVEN before the tour got under way, we had too many injuries, suffered especially by the front-line players. Shyamal Banerjee with a torn muscle and Parminder Singh with a bad ankle injury could not serve their country at Merdeka. Then followed the trip to North Korea only a few hours after we came back from Kuala Lumpur In North Korea, Prasun Banerjee injured an ankle, Harjinder Singh got a muscle snap and Parmer was having some knee trouble But all the players continued playing as the level of competition was very high Then came the tour of UAE, which resulted in Xavier Pius and Monoranjan Bhattacharya, two of my regular players, being sidelined To make it even worse, during an exhibition match at Nagpur, Mihir Bose, another regular was injured.

Despite these injuries, the team started preparing for the King's Cup at Bangkok at the St Thomas ground in Calcutta During the practice sessions, Compton Dutta suffered a knee injury and Alok Mukherjee, the new player in the squad, got a fibre tear Then Shyamal Banerjee, just when he was recovering from his earlier injury, got another bad one But, according to the schedule drawn, we went to participate in the King's Cup at Bangkok, however, with great reluctance For the first time in the history of Indian football, a surgeon of great repute, Dr Jayanta Sen, was sent along with the team Here a word of praise for him will not be out of place He has offered to devote his time and service to the cause of Indian football.

I was all the more unenthusiastic about our participation in the tournament because only 17 players were allowed to be taken to the competition, and with so many injuries, it was bound to be a big problem Ultimately, Xavier, Monoranjan, Mihir and Parminder were left out of the team. Harjinder, Prasun, Shyamal, Compton and Parmer with partial injuries made the trip. On our arrival at Bangkok, and after the managers had met, we learnt that we had been placed in a very strong group, comprising the joint holders of the last Asian Games, North Korea and South Korea, the qualifiers to the last World Cup, but eliminated this year, Australia and a team from Poland along with the Thailand B team.

That was group B. On the other hand, group A comprised Thailand A, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and a team from China. It was a weaker group and even the Thai papers did not forget to mention that most of the teams in this group would come a cropper if they were pitted against the those in the second group That Thailand A beat North Korea 2-1 during the extra time in the final is, however, a completely different story

The organisers had some trouble in housing the teams and ultimately they were accommodated in three different hotels. After the opening ceremony during which all the teams took part in the march past Thailand A played against Singapore in the opening match of the tournament Our first match, against Poland, was played on a rain-soaked ground where two 90-minute matches had taken place earlier One can well imagine the condition of the ground, which was completely churned up The team that I fielded that day comprised Bhaskar Ganguly, Compton Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, G S Parmer, Alok Mukherjee, Fareed, Prasun Banerjee, Prasanta Banerjee; Manash Bhattacharya, Shabbir Ali and Bidesh Bose It can be noted that except Parmer, all the players are from Bengal I purposely fielded these players because they were used to similar conditions in Calcutta The Polish team was finding it very difficult to set their rhythm on the rain-soaked ground On the other hand, after the initial tension, the Indian team settled down and made two to three openings down the left wing

On one occasion Bidesh Bose could have scored when the hind stopper (the one playing at the back, sort of a sweeper) went forward to mark Shabbir Ali, who had withdrawn a bit. Prasanta sent a lofted shot between the side back and the left stopper, for Bidesh to rush through the opening But, even after getting hold of the ball, Bidesh failed to put it past the goalkeeper. Then Bidesh sent a back-centre, which found the Polish goalkeeper in serious trouble and Manash darted in to intercept the ball in front of the helpless goalkeeper, but missed in sheer excitement Thereafter, the Polish players, finding it difficult to adjust to the conditions, changed their strategy and opted for long passes and curling centres and the short Indians had a hard time coping with their style of play Here I want to add that this is a disadvantage I have been facing at all the international outings Now, even the teams from Asia have at least four to five players who are above six feet

But in the second half of the match the Indians were fighting fiercely against the polished Polish team The ground was hampering their style of play These players have skill, but the ball was not travelling very fast. Their one-touch game was not functioning properly and understanding the difficulty of the Polish team, they started attacking their opponents' goal. A chance was created when Shabbir tagged the hind stopper with him to the midfield and Prasanta had the open goal Prasun, taking the rebound from Shabbir, neatly placed the ball on an unmarked zone for Prasanta to control it on the run The whole stadium was tense as they saw Prasanta receive the ball and had only the helpless Polish goalkeeper in front of him The stopper and the side back were left behind and they gave a hot chase and about the same time, the custodian rushed out of his charge In haste, Prasanta took a wild shot which went over the bar by a few inches.

The last chance came India's way when Compton Dutta moved up as an overlapping wing-back and centred the ball on top of the box for Shabbir to head it in Shabbir beat the outstretched hands of the custodian and the ball was crawling into the open goal But the right back came to the rescue and colly placed the ball out of danger. If only Manash, who was nearby, had been a little more resourceful and had darted in, India could have scored a sure goal That was the nearest the Indian team came to scoring.

On the other hand, Poland, awed by the dogged display put up by the Indian midfielders and defenders, were further frustrated by the pitch All along the Polish forwards made it a point to crowd Bhaskar when he was in control of the ball and the referee did not even once come forward to help him, which is normaly done because the custodian is bound by the four-step regulation. Bhaskar once had the ball and suddenly one of the Polish players rushed towards him. In order to protect himself, Bhaskar lifted his knee as the players came charging in. They struck Bhaskar and he fell down. The Chinese referee, without seeing what really happened, pointed to the dreaded spot and it was converted.

The Indian team protested against the decision, but they did not behave as the other teams do Other teams would have created a terrible scene, as we have seen during match against North Korea and China. Not satisfied with the decision of the referee, the Chinese team even heckled him and threatened to walk out of the tournament The Thai officials, with folded hands requested the team to continue, but ultimately the highest Chinese authorities came and settled the matter Only then did the team continue playing In the present world of football, we in India are not up to date about the antics that take place inside the ground They enact dramas to pressurise the referee. Seeing the performance of the Indian players against Poland, I realised what Bishan Singh Bedi must have felt at Lahore. Anyway, the damage was done in the 83rd minute and we lost a match, that should have gone our way

Our next encounter against North Korea was again played after two matches on the same day. Again it was a rain-soaked pitch. One thing that I want to add here is that wherever we have gone to play in tournaments, we have carried the rains with us. First it was at Merdeka, then North Korea and now at Bangkok. The rains were totally unexpected and we all thought that it was the Indian team that was carrying the clouds along with them Anyway, the playing conditions were possibly the worst one could think of Very recently we had toured North Korea and so we were well aware of their pattern of game They sent a very formidable side and we feared their 6' 2½" striker most Our fears came true nine minutes after the start From a centre by the right back, the striker beat Alim Khan (playing at an unusual position as a left back and not in his usual place as a stopper Incidentally, that was the only change I made in the team, bringing in Alim in place of injured Alok) and Subrata, who was our best header in the team, at the first bar The tall striker chested the ball and from eight yards placed the ball beyond the reach of Bhaskar Ganguly

With limited resources, this was the best match we played in the last three months, especially in the second half, when Bidesh Bose started shaping up very well But the other winger, Manash, in spite of repeated requests and coaxing, could not live up to his reputation Towards the 23rd minute of the second half there was a peculiar scene The otherwise confident right back of the North Korean side, who played with a tremendous load, covering a lot of ground in the defence and always moving up to act as an extra right wing, started taking a lot of liberty with Bidesh Bose Bidesh didn't like the manner in which he was dodged and when the right back, very artistically tried to pass the ball, Bidesh, frustrated at being humiliated, charged back, gathered the ball, and passed it on to Shabbir Ali Now, both the stoppers moved to the right and Shabbir plated a double pass When he last got the ball, he kept the two stoppers on the wrong side and with a beautiful right footer placed the ball beyond the reach of the onrushing custodian From then on, it was a different Indian team fighting for every ball and the North Korean forwards had no other option but to fall back and help the defenders, and thus seeing the game over The crowd that was present at the ground that day gave a standing ovation to the Indian boys

BEFORE the match against Australia, we had more problems Shyamal Banerjee was again injured during a practice session. Alok was out after the first match and Prasun who was playing with a plastered ankle had another bad knock in the last match Shabbir was complaining of a thigh injury which he had sustained at the Barrackpore camp and there was Parmer also suffering from a bad injury? But still, the last named players carried on spiritedly against Australia on the rain-soaked pitch The Australian team, which consisted of seven British professionals, mainly from Liverpool and Manchester United and another from Italy, were playing superbly in the tournament They had beaten Thailand B 4-0 and had drawn 1-1 after having the better of the exchanges against North Korea They were the only team who were playing the right type of football that was so very essential in those conditions But the Indian team gave everything they had to prove that they were once again trying to reach the top bracket among the Asian teams

The game, right from the start, was charged with action The Australians, shouting at the top of their voice to encourage each other, as they normally do, started playing with high kicks and going for big body tackles which put the Indian players in serious trouble There was pressure on the Indians right from the word "go" and for the first 15 minutes they were reeling under pressure Ultimately the defence broke from a heading deflection and the Australian left winger scored from a placed shot The appeal by the Indian players for an off-side was turned down by the referee Immediately after that, they again put the ball into the net, but this time it was disallowed as off-side At this juncture the Indian team was fighting hard to keep their nose just above the water

Harjinder replaced Manash in the second half, but it was soon apparent that he was not finding his touch after a long lay-off Then, in the second half the Australian forwards made it a point to charge Bhaskar whenever he had the ball During one such charging, Bhaskar was hurt and on his thigh were the marks of three studs Bhaskar was furious and reacted by tugging the 6'1" centreforward to the ground, with a wrestling style grip and this seemed to work like magic They never expected the 5'8" man to grab the giant in that way and from then on no one dared to charge Bhaskar again Soon, after about 20 minutes in the second half, Harjinder was replaced by Kartick Sett

Then came our best chance Fareed sent a through pass to Shabbir, who only had the goalkeeper to beat. The custodian rushed out of his charge and Shabbir gently placed the ball over him It was entering the net when out of nowhere the right back cleared the ball to safety If only Bidesh had reacted, he could have got that goal Then Fareed was pinned down on the ground and his ankle was badly injured by the aluminium studs, but still he continued despite great pain Similar fate befell Prasun also who was effectively controlling the midfield These two were limping and Manash was nowhere near the ball, which brought our strength down to just eight players Till the end, the Indian team tried their best, but all in vain.

That they had given their hearts out in the first three matches was evident during the encounter against South Korea, at Chonbury, some 80 miles away from Bangkok This match was a disaster for India. But, here I must mention what happened before the match took place. For lunch, both the teams were invited to a sea-side restaurant, where they were served with all sorts of food. Food has been a constant problem with the Indian boys in international outings and this time this became all the more evident when most of the players could not eat anything The authorities were very sorry but nothing could be done in the short time left before the match

The South Korean side was their national team, but a Services side, which consisted of some national players But they had enough strength to demolish any second rate side The Indian team that played that day was Bhaskar Ganguly, Compton Dutta, Subrata Bhattacharya, Parmer, Alim Khan, Ashok Fadke, Prasanta Banerjee, Harjinder Singh, Kartick Sett, Shabbir Ali and Bidesh Bose The Indian team, after having seen North Korea destroy South Korea 2-0 earlier, perhaps grew complacent and thought that they would have an easy time This was reflected in the attitude of the players and in the very first minute of the match, Subrata instead of heading the ball clear, allowed it to travel and went after the player for some unknown reasons The Korean winger darted in like an arrow and took control over the ball Subrata partially recovered, tried to tackle him from behind and in the process all he could do was to trip him inside the box Naturally, the referee from Singapore pointed to the dreaded spot—the penalty. The Indian team could not recover from this early setback South Korea put pressure on and there were waves of attacks and the defence continued making mistake after mistake Normally, my midfielders and forwards fall back to help the defence, but they did not do that in this match With one goal down, the Indian team wanted to attack The midfielders were moving up and in the process left huge gaps and failed to mark the opponents Especially, the lack of speed was becoming very prominent The second goal came when Compton failed to head properly and a centre was beautifully received by a midfielder The third goal was again initiated from the left flank From the centre, Bhaskar rushed out of his charge and the ball fell on the toes of an attacker Subrata tried to save the situation, but only succeeded in putting the ball into the net while running back

After the interval, the Indian team kept attacking, but it was of no avail. From a Kartick centre, Shabbir missed a goal from hand-shaking distance, Prasanta's shot hit the crosspiece and came back into the field and from the rebound, Ashok shot over the bar. Again from a Bidesh centre, Shabbir

missed a possible chance. Then Bidesh, with only the goalkeeper to beat, struck the bar from 15 yards. Then came the fourth goal. It was futile to attempt to get the South Korean players in an off-side trap. There were three forwards against Bhaskar alone, who kept diving from feet to feet. It was the last straw in the camel's back. In the dying moments, when the lost time was being played, two more goals were scored by the South Koreans, the dispirited Indian defence proving no match for them.

The Indian campaign which started three months back, before the tour of Kuala Lumpur for the Merdeka tournament has been an up-and-down one. The players in the first team have played a lot of international matches in the past months, and just when it seemed that they were gaining stability, they slipped down. It reminds me of an arithmetic problem we solved at school: a monkey, trying to climb a greased pole only succeeds in going up and coming down. But, without excuses, I can say that we are still way behind for the race at the Asian Games and time is ticking away fast.

THIRD INDO-PAK HOCKEY TEST

Only hockey wins

NEITHER India nor Pakistan, only hockey won—that was what Pakistan's premier daily newspaper *Pakistan Times* said in its headline on the third hockey Test between India and Pakistan, played at an exceptionally fast pace

Nothing could have been more appropriate a description than this. It rained heavily on November 26, the day before the match. Yet the enthusiasm of the hockey fans of Lahore was not dampened People from all walks of life ran to the Gaddafi Stadium which seemed packed to its capacity even one hour before the start

President Zia-ul-Haq too came as the chief guest to the occasion and was introduced to the players of the two teams

For the first time in the series, the two teams were to play under two neutral umpires from Holland who later proved extremely competent in their job India went all-out right from the beginning, with the wingers Kaushik, Mervyn, Shahid and Syed Ali playing superbly After repeated raids India snatched the first penalty corner in the sixth minute of the first half But the chances could not be utilised Three long corners followed soon. But luck eluded India on all these occasions

Pakistan now came into the attack, launching powerful raids on the rival citadel. In the 11th minute Pakistan earned the first penalty corner, but only to fail to convert it. The struggle continued between the two sides thereafter, till Pakistan got another penalty corner in the 25th minute. But it too brought no result. Four minutes later, Pakistan got another penalty corner. This time, Manzur-ul-Hassan's hit went off the target after being deflected by an Indian defender's stick. But then followed the most powerful attack with Mervyn and Kaushik tearing apart the Pakistani defence A serious infringement cost Pakistan a penalty stroke to be taken by India. Amidst shouts and noise from the stands, left-half Gurmail from Jullundur struck to put India one up. Pakistan could have levelled the score two minutes later, but Khalid Hamid's hit was cleared by Negi and India retained the lead till the breather.

After the change of ends it was a different Pakistan who attacked the Indian territory with a vengeance. India were clearly under pressure now. In the fifth minute after break, Saeed Khan, who hovered dangerously near the Indian citadel, missed a good chance of scoring Before this, Surjit Singh, the Indian defender, had thwarted another Pakistani move. Pakistan wasted another penalty corner in the 8th minute. Two minutes later, Saeed Khan found the public cursing him when the Indian goalkeeper falling out of position, he scooped the ball high in sheer excitement. It seemed luck was against them

But the Pakistani players maintained their pressure and nobody knew the situation would change so dramatically. In the 12th minute striker Hassan Sardar struck the ball home to level the score It was a good field goal.

But hardly before the sky renting cheers from the crowd subsided, Saeed Khan, who had missed the target earlier, scored a classic goal bringing the entire Pakistani crowd to its feet.

In fact, Saeed scored from almost a zero angle The Pakistani strikers chased a fast hit, Negi rushed forward and after ensuring that the ball has almost gone past, stopped chasing it But Saeed Khan, in a desperate bid, just put his blade and flicked the ball in a flash action and the ball went in.

The tide was against India now. Pakistan wasted a penalty corner in the 20th minute India escaped another danger a few minutes later But five minutes before the close, India forced a penalty corner Rajinder Singh, the right full back, struck the board to restore parity.

HARBANS SINGH VIRDI

Killing two birds by one stone

HOW our so-called hockey fans sneak into Pakistan and indulge in smuggling is unfolded by the story narrated below:

November 26, Wagha border near the BSF checkpost on Amritsar side: A large crowd of hockey fans from all over Punjab were eagerly waiting to get their passports visaed. Of course, only those who have links with higher authorities could manage to penetrate in, but they soon found themselves confronted with many unforeseen problems. Three photographs were required to get a visa, but most of them did not have so many photographs with them. Amritsar being 23 km from the border, fans madly ran to Attari where there were only two photographers' studios. One ran short of film rolls as a result of the sudden rush, while there was a power failure in the area of the second photographer. The visa-seekers now ran to Khas Pind, but no shop was open there too. Then they dashed to Chakrata and having their problems solved drove at a breakneck speed back to Wagha.

A superintendent of police snubbed this reporter on being asked to help a little to get a visa. Only a few privileged with high references managed to get them.

November 27, the day of the India-Pakistan Test at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore: The visa-holders ran into another major difficulty. The State Bank of India officials in Wagha disclosed that they had no instructions from the Reserve Bank of India to release foreign currency. This reporter, despite being helped by a Pakistani customs officer, Mahmood, and another immigration officer, was thrown back into the Indian territory thrice as he had no dollar with him. Thus the dollar value shot up. This reporter too had to buy them from black market at Rs. 13 per dollar. But the rate soon rocketed to Rs. 35 per dollar.

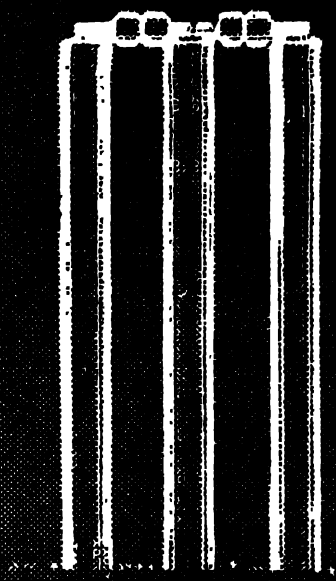
November 27, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore: Only about 50 of those enthusiasts were there at the ground. Where were the others?

Next day the mystery was solved. They were all there, shopping at Anarkali Bazar, Luhda Bazar and Nwalamgir Market. A hockey fan even expressed his desire to see a mujra at Heera Mandi later that evening.

Now the last scene shifts back to the Indo-Pak border: The hockey fans were returning with cassettes, radiosets, cameras, tape recorders, Japanese saris and what not, either packed into their suitcases or dangling from their arms.

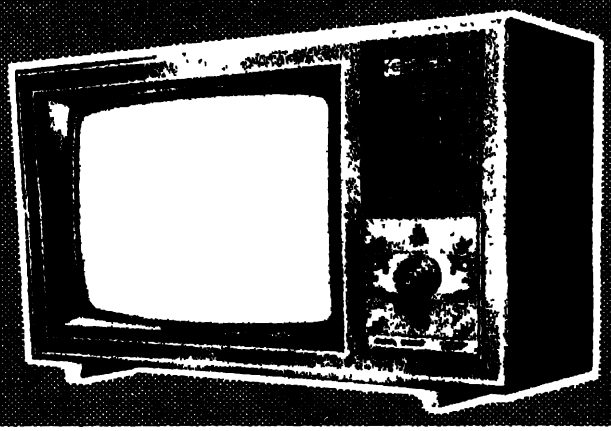
H. S. VIRDI

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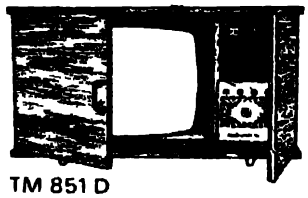
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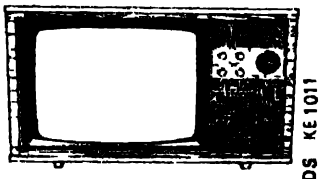
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Kabaddi guillotined?

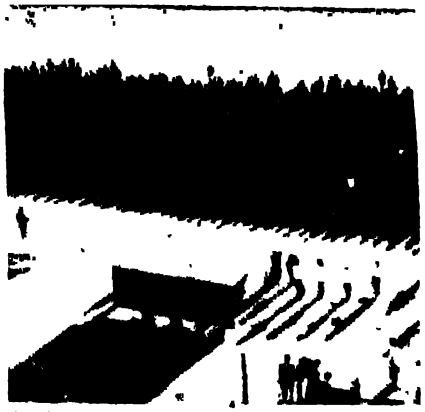
IT seems that loss of money, time and energy matters little in this country And promises too, count for nought, as is the case with kabaddi which is going to be staged, only as a demonstration sport on November 29 during the ninth Asian Games at New Delhi next year

It may be recalled that the move to get kabaddi included in the Asiad events began after the Bangkok Games in 1978. Correspondence circulated through the Asian Games Federation, the Indian Olympic Association and the Organising Committee of the ninth Games A ray of hope appeared when the AGF showed interest through their letters to the Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation (AAKF) saying, "There will be no difficulty to include the game if the conditions laid down are fulfilled" Thereafter, a few heads rolled in the Organising Committee, but hopes of the game's inclusion were still kept alive Meanwhile, the AAKF, with the help of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, started gathering strength with the induction of Japan, Thailand and Malaysia, apart from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India into its fold

But, to the utter surprise and shock of the kabaddi fraternity in the Asian region, the sport was 'axed' recently during the AGF council meeting at Delhi by none other than the AGF and IOA president, Raja Bhalinder Singh According to the Bangladesh representative present at the meeting, Mr Zafar Imam "Mr Bhalinder Singh sabotaged the inclusion of kabaddi despite the fact that all the conditions were fulfilled It is sad indeed Though we got support from almost all the council members including those from Kuwait, Korea and Iran, the issue of kabaddi was not even discussed when my senior colleague Hadayat Ahmed, the vice president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and secretary, Ministry of Sports, raised a proposal"

When the proposal was made by Mr Ahmed, the AGF president, with his face down, said "It was placed before the executive council for approval earlier, but they turned it down with the plea that the game was not in the Olympic list of events So the question of its inclusion does not arise and we have decided to stage it as a demonstration game next year We will, however, raise the issue during the next council meeting", disclosed Mr Imam, who is an executive member of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, National Sports Control Board, Cricket Control Board and the Football Federation

"Now, the question is whether the next council meeting—after the Delhi Asiad—which will be conducted by the newly-named Asian Olympic Council

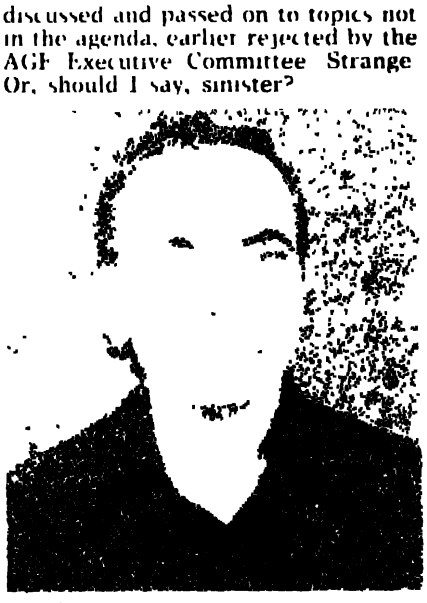


115 kabaddi teams gather during the opening ceremony at Togone City (Japan)

will care to bring up the kabaddi issue"? wondered Mr Imam, adding, "I have my doubts, because after the change of its name and addition of the word 'Olympic', the AGF may be forced to say that kabaddi will not be in the Asiad list of events I think, had Mr Bhalinder Singh used his influence, the sport would have definitely been included

"When AVM (retd) C L Mehta tried to raise the issue before the house, the chair unfortunately did not allow him to reopen it, though the Bangladesh representative repeatedly tried to convince Mr Singh with all the documents available in support of his claim But they all fell on deaf ears", stated Mr Imam

Why did Raja Bhalinder Singh take such a peculiar stand, even when it was the only chance for India to get the game included in the Asiad? According to Mr Imam, "The Raja told the council that the Special Organising Committee wanted no more games to be included in the list of events of the Asiad But Mr Mehta immediately clarified the position by saying that the power to include or reject any game lay with the AGF Surprisingly, Mr Bhalinder Singh did not open his mouth Even more surprising, he did not allow the kabaddi issue to be discussed and passed on to topics not in the agenda, earlier rejected by the AGF Executive Committee Strange Or, should I say, sinister?



Zafar Imam

"When the Raja commented that kabaddi was not in the Olympic list, I replied that bowling, too, was not in the list—then how was it that it was played in the Commonwealth Games? He kept silent Surely, kabaddi could have found a place He really shattered all our hopes

"However, the best, is yet to come", Mr Imam paused for a while and slowly came out "After the meeting, the Raja told Mr Sharad Pawar, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and a leading personality in Indian kabaddi, that a couple of countries wanted their 'favourite' sport—quite akin to kabaddi—included in the Asiad If that be the case then why didn't the Raja and others come up with it openly at the meeting? Whichever the countries involved, we felt that at least kabaddi should have got priority"

"It is known that a particular game called circle kabaddi is played in Pakistan and in some parts in Punjab, but Pakistan was always ready to support the Asian-grown game—the way we play it in India, Nepal, Japan and Bangladesh—and when the Raja was informed that Pakistan was a member of the AAKF, he kept silent", concluded Mr Zafar Imam

Now the question is: why all this farce? If the Raja really wanted to brush aside kabaddi why did he not make it known when he took over as the IOA president? Or can it be said that he detests this ideal, mass-based and inexpensive sport? Is he acquainted with the game? Surely, he knows how popular this game is and that the Asian Kabaddi Championship for men and women will be staged at Dacca from December 25 to 27, where India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand are to participate Malaysia, however, is yet to confirm her participation One is compelled to say that a poor sport like kabaddi has been guillotined by the Raja's stubbornness All the enthusiasm of the followers of the game has definitely been thrown cold water on. Will not there be any reaction to this ill-treatment meted out to one of the most representative games of the country? Everybody wants the game to be included in the Asiad

This issue had been raised a few times in Parliament It must not be forgotten that the Asian Federation was formed in 1978 only with the permission of the Government of India, with the help of the Bangladesh and Nepal Governments In reality, this is a common man's game and if is now up to the Members of Parliament, who were voted to power by the poor people of the country to support its cause

And how will the president of the AAKF, the AKFI and a member of the IOA, Mr Pawar, face the other member countries who seriously worked for the inclusion of kabaddi in the ninth Asiad?

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S SPORTS FESTIVAL

Yet another 'tamasha' staged

IT seems that the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council have learnt no lesson from their past experiences Again and again they venture to conduct national championships with the help of those same old people who have proved unfit as organisers on previous occasions, thereby not only proving a drain on the public exchequer, but also killing the enthusiasm of the budding athletes in the process. To cite an example, the recently concluded seventh National Women's Sports Festival suffered tremendously from inept organization by the officials of the sports council Rupees 300,000 were squandered on this ill-conceived meet, the outcome of which was zero The absence of the top athletes like P T Usha, Sreekumari Amma, Valsamma, Mercy Mathews, Geeta Zutshi and Bakhthawar Khambarra was a slap on the face of the organizers

That the meet was a flop was the view expressed by the participating teams The best example was the basketball match between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for the third and fourth places The Tamil Nadu officials and the players literally cried after they lost to the hosts of course, not for losing, but for the lack of modern facilities, which stood in their way to success They also alleged that the referees played a big role in AP's winning the bronze "What else has the AP Sports Council provided, apart from food?" they asked indignantly

But, despite all this tamasha, Vandana Rao, the sprint queen from Karnataka, who is considered second only to Usha, stole the show during the five-day meet and created a sensation on the third day establishing herself as the fastest woman in 100m clocking 12 4 secs However, it was not a record

"I'm not satisfied with my timing", said the swift-footed, fair, lanky 18-year-old girl when *Sportsworld* asked her to comment on her victory She also admitted that the absence of PT Usha and Sreekumari Amma gave her a better opportunity to achieve this feat "Of course, PT Usha is superb, but I defeated Sreekumari Amma at the five-nation athletic meet at Pune," Vandana Rao added

It is unfortunate that though the director of the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, R L Anand, announced proudly that the institute would bring as many foreign coaches as possible to groom our athletes, such poor athletes like Vandana still did not get a good coach She is full of promise, and may be able to do better than even PT Usha, provided she gets proper training

Not only Vandana there are many other athletes who needs proper coaching and the basic facilities like track, diet and of course encouragement Another athlete, similarly handicapped, is high jumper Sheba Newman The poor Tamil Nadu girl, who won six golds at various meets, was deprived of a chance to go abroad She was, not once, but twice cheated by the officials On the third day, Sheba "belly rolled" over the bar, set at 1 03m, but was unable to better her old record

Vandana Rao—stole the show



Hameeda Banu of Rajasthan notched up a unique double—800m and 400m Though she was not able to create any record in 400m, Hameeda bettered her own meet record in 800m. She just finished it in 2 13 8 seconds. Her earlier record was 2.17 5 secs. Mohinder Kaur of Punjab, who won the 1500m on the opening day, secured the second place with a new meet record (2 16.3 secs), followed by Krishna Bose of Andhra Pradesh 2 19 1 secs. The other new meet record established on the final day was in the 4x 100m relay in 49 4 secs The old record also stood in Karnataka's name at 49.5 secs Though it was an achievement of the four-member relay team, credit goes especially to Vandana, who was instrumental in winning the gold medal

On the fourth day the Bengal swimmers sunk six records to retain the championship, which they won three years back

Illa Paul (WB) and Karnataka's Anisha Prasad were the cynosures of all eyes scoring a double each The former set new records in 100m breaststroke (1 28 2 secs) and 200m individual medley (2 58 5 secs) Anisha, who won the individual championship, established new records in 200m backstroke (3 3 5 secs) and 200m free-style (2:37 05 secs) Others to break marks were S Laila of Kerala (100m free-style— 1.12 6 secs) and Sarala Sarwate (MP) who improved upon her own record set in 1977 in diving with 299 5 points. West Bengal won the title with 72 points, followed by Kerala (52) and Karnataka (45)

The Karnataka pair of Kamala Hegde and Poornima won the doubles tennis title defeating Punjab's Harina and Dilyot Maharashtra won the table tennis title with a 3 0 win over Tamil Nadu to top the super league table Assam defeated last year's winners West Bengal 3-1 for the second place.

In kho-kho, Madhya Pradesh completed a hat-trick when they won the championship for the third successive year. They brushed aside Maharashtra 8:2. Karnataka and AP finished second and third respectively

Maharashtra upset West Bengal 27 9 to win the kabaddi title They also won the gymnastics championship with a tally of 135 05 points Jayashree Bapat of Maharashtra won the individual honours with 28 90 points

Punjab won the volleyball championship with their unbeaten record in the super league, followed by West Bengal, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh

In all, more than 1400 sportswomen from 20 States participated in the five-day meet

Karnataka retained the athletic championship with a haul of 40 points Punjab (32) and Tamil Nadu (27) were placed second and third respectively

M S SHANKAR, Hyderabad

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NORTH ZONE INTER-VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Guru Nanak retain title

THE North Zone Inter-University Women's volleyball championship ended in a blaze of glory for Guru Nanak Dev University girls who retained the title after coming out on top with a maximum of six points in the semi-final league at Jamshedpur. The championship, which was held at the Town Community Centre amphitheatre recently, under the auspices of the Ranchi University, fully satisfied the knowledgeable crowd that watched the girls perform with the same fluency as their male counterparts.

The well-built Guru Nanak girls put tremendous power in their smashes and displayed a good understanding of courtcraft. Right from the quarter-final stage they defeated their rivals in straight sets and they were at their best in the deciding match of the semi-final stage against Ranchi. If they play with the same zeal and skill at Calicut in the Inter-zonals, they should reasonably be expected to retain their All-India Varsities volleyball crown. Perhaps, one of their players, now playing at Mexico City, will join them at Calicut and add to the strength to the team.

In the last round of the league semi-finals, Guru Nanak Dev University defeated the host, Ranchi University 15-4, 15-9 and 15-9. But it was not a cakewalk victory for the Amritsar outfit as the Ranchi girls put up a spirited defensive game The powerful smashes of Guru Nanak Dev's Kamaljit, Pushpa and Ravinder were defended confidently by the rival players and subsequently the Amritsar girls had to switch over to drops and placements interspersed with spiking. Both GND and Ranchi University drew rounds of applause for dishing out a lively show, though the scores do not suggest so. Earlier, in the semi-final matches, Ranchi beat Punjab in a gruelling contest of five games. Kiran Thompkinson and Pushpa Singh of Ranchi University made powerful hits. The main reason for Ranchi's upset in the second and third games was the erratic serves made by them. They served the ball out of the court at least seven times, and some of them at crucial moments Sukhwinder and Kawaljit of Punjab were really impressive.

In the other matches of the semi-final league, GND humbled Punjabi by showering powerful spikes all over their opponents' court. Kamaljit, Pushpa and Ravinder played a beautiful game and won the hearts of the thousands of spectators as the best smashers of the championship.

The Ranchi-Punjabi tie was another five setter. Ranchi, took the first game 15-11, but lost the next two 13-15 and 7-15 Phullan of Punjabi made good floating serves which deceived the Ranchi girls and made them panicky. But the Ranchi girls combined splendidly and put up a solid defence. The smashes of Sukhwinder were lifted by the Ranchi players easily. Kiran, Pushpa and Usha of Ranchi made good smashes for their team, but victory came mainly due to their spirited defence

P & T VOLLEYBALL

Karnataka win

THE Karnataka spikers had to pull their weight a bit too much to down Bihar and win the men's title in the 7th All-India Post and Telegraph Volleyball Championship, which concluded at Patna recently The scores at the end of the two hours' fight were 15-13, 8-15, 9-15, 15-5 and 15-8.

Karnataka's counterpart in the women's section were Tamil Nadu, who whipped West Bengal 15-12, 15-7 and 15 12.

The men's final was an exciting encounter, which saw the crowd burst into cheers at the Telegraphs Club amphitheatre. The home team took an early lead in the opening game and kept themselves ahead till 13-11. But they could not maintain it as Karnataka put terrific pressure at the net. As if stung by this attack the Bihar spikers, led by Gajendra Singh and Ashok Kumar Singh and boosted by Rajendra, perhaps, the best of his class in the whole tournament, took the second and third games But, as luck would have it, they could not hold on to this success any further, though they never gave up trying

As the fourth game opened, Karnataka's tactics of dodging the net blocking moves of the Bihar players and hammering the leather diagonally toward the sidelines paid rich dividends and they restored parity to head for the fifth and final game

In the decider Karnataka shot into a 5-0 lead But sensing that the golden fish was slipping out of their grasp the Bihar players caught up with their adversaries at 7 all The home crowd inspired their stars further on for the final attempt on the coveted title. Gajendra and Ashok responded to the cheers, while the Karnataka team remained cool and still had enough steam left to make front and back rolls to retrieve the seemingly lost chances. Their technique and better staying power made the vital difference at this stage and they took the decider 15-8.

PREM KUMAR, Patna

A cup of misery

IT was a cup of misery—this 30th and lack-lustre edition of the once prestigious Bandodkar Gold Cup. The tournament began with a bang, attracting the cream of the country's football talent from Calcutta, Bombay, Kerala, Andhra and Punjab, during the high noon of Goa's first post-Independence Chief Minister late Mr. D. B. Bandodkar's political power.

Technically, there were 22 entries this year, but the WIFA placed a virtual embargo on five Bombay teams demanding them to fulfil their Hardwood Super League and Rovers Cup commitments first. As a result, even four days before the inaugural match between Kidderpore and Customs, the tournament automatically entered the quarter-final stage. Thus it was, indeed, a cup of misery, filled to the brim.

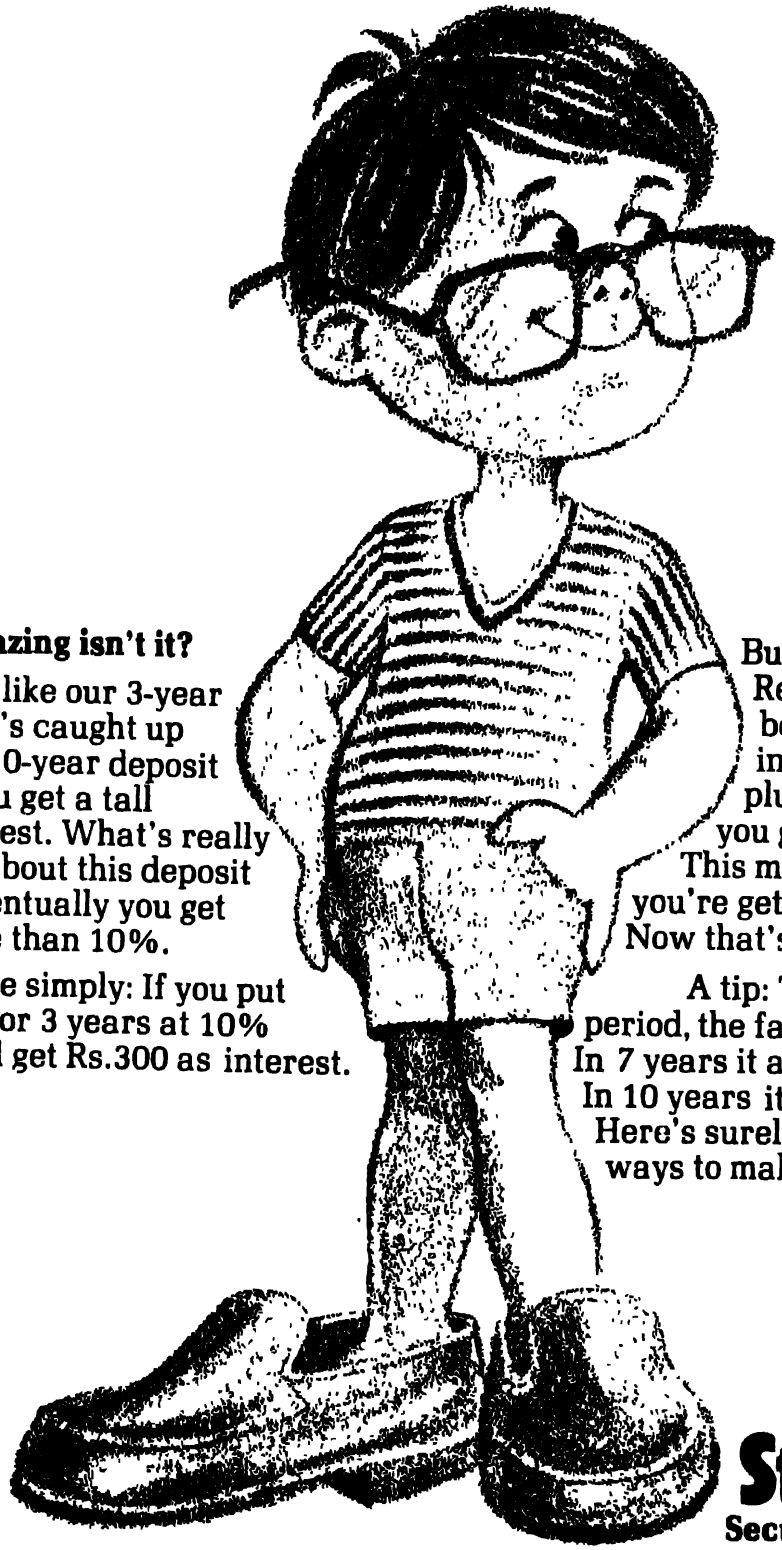
The WIFA privately advised GFA, the organisers, to realistically lower their sights and make it a middle level competition. They might, as a result, be able to attract more entries, regain their lost glory and offer the spectators some kind of [illegible] show.

[illegible] Railway Reporting [illegible] Jesus Rosario Sports Club of Siriddo 9-0 to make it to the quarter-finals and the score did not reach two dozens or more probably because SCR decided to be a bit kind to the local team.

On the other hand, in order to orchestrate out-of-state publicity, the organisers decided to offer no facilities to the representatives of the national publications for covering the matches. Instead, they approached the wire agencies with the proposal that the organisers would 'arrange' for the reports to be sent, leaving it for the agencies to relay them. PTI, after initially playing the ball out of sheer commiseration, has now decided to put an end to such coverage by proxy. This *Sportsworld* correspondent was privately told by some organisers that some of their office bearers were keen on capturing the by-lines themselves. Hence the inability to issue passes to the Press. Bandodkar might have died a broken-hearted man had he been there to see the slow death of a tournament he had envisioned as one of the premier football competitions of the country.

MARIO CABRAL

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News round-up

Move to unearth more talent

CHANDIGARH: A bold attempt to unearth sports talent has been made in Punjab with the setting up of the Sports Association of Punjab Semi-Government organisations (SAPSO) The association has already conducted its inaugural tournament which, considering the response it got from the member organisations, should be described as successful Though only five disciplines, namely badminton, volleyball, table tennis, kabaddi and athletics, were included in the tournament a number of talented players were spotted

The SAPSO has also asked the member associations to give due preference to recognised sportsmen in the matter of employment According to the SAPSO President Rajan Kashyap, most organisations are eager to employ sportsmen, many of whom have already approached various corporations

In due course, the member organisations will formulate their own rules for the reservation of posts for sportsmen This, he feels, will stop talent-drain from the State, which, according to the Punjab Sports Director and former hockey Olympian Balbir Singh, has been a major problem for the last few years There are not many sponsors and many budding sportsmen have to leave the State in search of employment

The SAPSO also wants to form its own teams for hockey, football, badminton, volleyball, kabaddi, athletics etc It might also field its teams at various national and, if enough talent is available, international tournaments The selected sportsmen will get encouragement in the shape of special leave for preparations before major tournaments "Minor obstacles and red tapism will not be allowed to stand in the way," Mr Kashyap told *Sportsworld* in an interview

The association is also thinking of building its own infrastructure to meet the needs of the sportsmen of the State

SATISH KUMAR

Vimal Kumar wins badminton tourney

INDORE: The All-India Open Badminton tournament, held here recently proved a great success with a host of internationals like Vimal Kumar, Partho Ganguly, Sanjay Sharma, Sanat Mishra and others in the men's section and Madhumita Goswami and others in the women's taking part in it. Moreover, this competition is going to be held every year, since it has been



Vimal Kumar

recognised by the Badminton Association of India During the final of this absorbing three-day tournament a capacity crowd witnessed the speed and skill of international Vimal Kumar of Kerala, who outclassed Sanat Mishra, 15-2, 15-5 in only 24 minutes With powerful crosscourt smashes and delicate drops Vimal left Sanat out of breath It was surprising to see Sanat falling an easy prey to Vimal in the final, considering the fact that the former had defeated both Vikram Singh 15-9, 4-15 and 15-12 in the quarter final and Sanjay Sharma 15-11, 13-15 and 15-12 in the semi final In both these matches Sanat Mishra, mainly a doubles player, had shown tremendous speed and executed some powerful overhead smashes to come out with flying colours On the other hand, Vimal Kumar had a tough encounter with international Partho Ganguly, whom he ultimately defeated 15-9, 12-15, and 15-6 The latter was once considered the fastest player next only to Prakash Padukone In this match Vimal Kumar cleverly kept Partho away from the net, since he excels in net dribbling

However, after witnessing the final one must unhesitatingly say that in Vimal Kumar we have a future Syed Modi or a Prakash Padukone. But, to be successful at the international level Vimal Kumar has to gather more speed, better physical fitness and, of course, finesse in net-dribbling which is the main forte of Prakash Padukone.

In the women's singles international Madhumita Goswami completely demolished H. Nariman 11-3 and 11-4 With immaculate drops, net-dribbling and a series of backhand shots Madhumita simply outclassed Nariman It was heartening to see the improvement Madhumita had achieved in only one year. She has increased her stamina and developed her forehand and backhand shots and drops considerably But, if she has to come anywhere near Ami Ghia or reach the international standard, she has to become faster

The men's doubles final saw the established Indian pair of Sanat Mishra and Ed'sa losing to Partho Ganguly and Vikram Singh with Ed'sa being extremely slow and sluggish to receive the drops at the net

SUJIT MOHANTY

Punjab enters Ranji knock-out

CHANDIGARH: With left handed Deepak Chopra in devastating form, Punjab made a successful effort to enter the knock-out stage of the Ranji Trophy for the first time in many years, as its opening match against Haryana ended in a tie with both sides scoring 171 each

Interestingly, Kapil Dev, the Haryana skipper and Test aspirant Ashok Malhotra failed with the bat, facing Deepak Chopra who emerged with a remarkable haul of six wickets for 49 and an unbeaten 62

Haryana, however, had the consolation of watching their star left-arm leg spinner Rajinder Goel capture his 500th Ranji Trophy wicket, thereby setting a new seemingly unsurpassable record

But, the most shocking aspect of this match was the absence of Yograj Singh He was not selected for the Haryana team because of his failure to submit a written apology which the State Cricket Association had demanded from him for his alleged misbehaviour at Jaipur and Chandigarh

SATISH KUMAR

CRIQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Riot robbed him of first Test century

An English batsman was left four short of his first Test century when rioting caused abandonment of a 1969 match in Karachi.

The match was the third and last of a series conducted during a period of political turmoil in Pakistan. The tour had been arranged at short notice to fill a gap in the international cricket programme created by the South African Government's objection to an MCC team containing Basil D'Oliveira Rioting broke out on the first day of the first Test at Lahore and the match was never free from disorder The second Test at Dacca was also disturbed by rowdiness But the third Test was abandoned early on the third day before the England first innings had been completed

The batsman left on 96 subsequently described the end of the match in a book in which he said a new factor in an explosive situation was "the growing feeling, mainly among students, that we should not go on unconcernedly playing cricket while their country was in such a state of turmoil." He added "We were not particularly alarmed when they broke into the stadium. They numbered thousands and it was plain that they had picked on the ground as the centre of their latest demonstration The question was Would they come over the top and invade the playing area?"

"David Brown, who was my partner at the time, had no doubt that they would and, in fact, they did. He sprinted down the wicket and said, 'Come on, run for it. And so we hared to the pavilion, with the umpires and Pakistan players racing after us, though I must say that not a hand was laid on us in anger during that flight to safety

"Many people felt that I was unfortunate to have been deprived of a Test century in such a way but I was happy enough to have scored 96 and escaped unscathed "

QUESTION 1 Who was the batsman deprived by four runs off his first Test hundred when the riots came?

After two drawn Tests, England were 502 for 7 when this third Test was abandoned Top scorer in the England innings with 139 was a player surprisingly omitted from the original team and flown to Pakistan from Western Australia when the fitness of England's captain, Colin Cowdrey, was in doubt. The late arrival who had been playing for Western Australia in Sheffield Shield matches, hit a six and 17 fours in a storming innings to set England on a high-scoring spree. Less than four months earlier this exciting batsman had given a devastating performance for Western Australia in Brisbane by scoring 243 (four sixes and 38 fours), including 181 between lunch and tea

QUESTION 2 Who was the hard hitter?

For 71 years sensational Gloucestershire and England hitter Gilbert Jessop held the distinction of having scored the two fastest double centuries in first-class cricket.

For his County in 1903 he tore the Sussex bowling apart to hit 200 (out of 286) in exactly two hours and two years later raced to his double century (out of 234) in 10 minutes longer against Somerset at Bristol. Today he is still at the top of the list of fastest double century-makers but he shares top billing with a dashing batsman who also took exactly two hours to rattle on a double century for the West Indies against Glamorgan at Swansea in August, 1976

The West Indies, who won the match by an innings and 141 runs were 554 for 4 (off 84 overs) when the innings was declared closed, the double century-maker being 201 not out. He reached his 100 in 80 minutes and slammed on his second hundred in half that time His fourth-wicket partnership with Lawrence Rowe of 287 in 124 minutes—Rowe contributing 78 and sundries 8—is a West Indies record for that wicket in England The double century-maker hit seven sixes and 28 fours and 91 of his runs came from the bowling of a Glamorgan namesake whose last two overs cost 11 runs.

QUESTION 3 Who was the West Indian who emulated Jessop?

While the first three places on the list of fastest double centuries in first-class cricket are shared by an Englishman and a West Indian, the corresponding first three positions on the list of fastest Test double centuries are held by Australians The list is headed by Sir Donald Bradman, who took only 214 minutes for the first 200 of his historic 334 at Leeds in 1930. Previously the best time for 200 was Victor Trumper's 226 minutes, against South Africa in Adelaide, 1910-11, when he made 214 not out. A third Australian batsman bettered Trumper's time by three minutes in a sensational innings in England

QUESTION 4 Who is the Australian batsman lying between Bradman and Trumper on the list of fastest Test double centuries?

A famous English batsman had a curious penchant for duplicating his huger scores Other batsmen have made such scores as 302, 264, 238, 231, 217, 211, 192, 178 and 177; but this batsman made all these at least twice and some of them three times. He made 140 five times

QUESTION 5 Was this Hammond, Hobbs or Hendren?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1 Gary Sobers for Rest of the World against Australia, January, 1972 Sobers was captain of the team a multi-national combination chosen by the Australian authorities, which visited Australia when a planned tour by a South African side was cancelled His brilliant 254 was scored in the World XI's third match against Australia, in the first innings of which he had made a duck—c Stackpole b Lillee While Sobers made his 254, partners contributed 114 Most successful of them was the South African bowler Peter Pollock (54) with whom he shared an eighth-wicket stand of 186 to which Sobers contributed 129 It was Pollock who wrote about the "priceless memory" of having been out there with a genius The match was won by the World XI by 96 runs—184 and 514 to Australia's 285 and 317 The first match of this series was drawn, the second won by Australia by an innings and 11 runs, the fourth drawn and the fifth won by the World XI by nine wickets

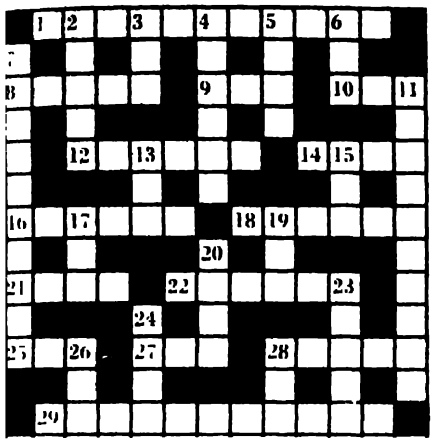
2 Graeme Watson, hit by a full toss from Tony Greig Kerry Stackpole wrote in his book *Not Just for Openers* Graeme (who had been clipped on the head by a Greig bouncer in the first innings) tried to swat the ball which cannoned into his head Graeme was in a mess when he was carried into the dressing room There was blood everywhere He was taken to hospital where at one stage his heart stopped After he pulled through the crisis he temporarily suffered from double vision but then, amazingly, he convinced the selectors he was worth sending to England "

3 The Indian captain Nari Contractor, in the first innings of a match between Indian and Barbados at Bridgetown in 1962 Later in the match Griffith was no-balled for throwing While this occurred Contractor was fighting for his life

Crossword

Gridman

126



ACROSS

1 North American Indian woman enclosed in the hills at the Winter Olympics (5,6)
8 Japanese and World T T Champion this time without the Royal Artillery (5)
9 Madrid team nearly exists (3)
10 Surface to Air Missile at Los Angeles? (3)
12 Rearrange billiard balls backwards, the way you want it (2,4)
14 We hear that he stocked up many a good tennis stroke, returns (4)
16 It is strange that a toy should be part of Tokyo's grand swimming stadium (6)
18 Turkish ruler played Olympic hockey for India? (1,1,4)
21 Indian all-rounder is incorrectly egoistic at the end (4)
22 Game to get across?
25 It got the athlete back to where he started (3)
27 Killa is not on here (3)
28 Indian athlete commands a horse at the start (5)
29 One of India's "Little Masters" (1,10)

DOWN

2 Slightly queer Australian tennis ace (5)
3 Initially, Amateur Boxing Union (1,1,1)
4 Golfing trophy is quite zealous in the middle (6)
5 Confused card deal (4)
6 Initials of the author of One More Over" (1,1,1)
7 Discharge missile before the dance (6,4)
11 Blue and yellow, red and brown, mix well for their team colours (5,5)
13 Croquet drink ? (3)
15 Athlete does not make it (3)
17 —Eliyahu is Israel's basketball stadium (3)
19 El Barnes ? (3)
20 Backward fatigue (4)
23 "Little Miss Icicle's" maiden name (5)
24 Overtake in bridge (4)
26 Nurmi firstly does not make it (3)
28 Backward horsy grumbler (3)

Quiz

Ram Guha

QUESTIONS

Find out the correct answer from within the brackets —

1 Stanley Mathews first played for (Stoke City Blackpool)
2 In triple jump the hop and the step must be made with - (the same leg different legs)
3 Teofilo Stevenson is the Olympic boxer to win three gold medals (first second)
4 —got a century on his Ranji debut (Gavaskar Vishwanath)
5 -got a zero on his Ranji debut (Vishwanath Gavaskar)
6 -is the first Indian batsman to have scored a century against each of the (then) Test-playing countries (Gavaskar Vishwanath)
7 -is the first Indian batsman to have crossed the 1 000 run mark against the Aussies (Gavaskar Vishwanath)
8 Lev Yashin always wore a jersey (black red)
9 Tong Ling the women's singles champion at the 36th World T T championships plays with the -grip (pen hold shake-hands)
10 The Late C B Fry a cricket as well as a soccer Blue got a third Blue in (rugby athletics)

ANSWERS

10 Athletics
9 Shake hands
8 Black
7 Vishwanath
6 Vishwanath
5 Gavaskar
4 Vishwanath
3 Second
2 The same leg
1 Stoke City

Question box

Guru Govind Pattanaik, Keonjhar
Q. Will a batsman be given out if the catch deflected from the body of an umpire is taken by a fielder?
A Yes

V. Kannan, V Jagannathan, Purulia.
Q What is the date of birth of Gordon Greenidge of West Indies?
A May 1, 1951

Ramesh Agarwalla, Shillong
Q Who was the only Test victim of Gavaskar as a bowler?
A. Zaheer Abbas of Pakistan

Nagendra Nayak, Keonjhar
Q. Who are the fastest double an triple century makers in Tests?
A. D G Bradman of Australia hit a double century in 214 minutes when he made 334 against England at Leeds in 1930 W R Hammond took 287 minutes for 300 runs in his knock of 336 not out against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

V. Niladri Achari, Purulia
Q What are the birth dates of Martin Kent, Trevor Chappell, Terry Alderman, Chris Tavare and Paul Allott?
A. Martin Kent was born on 23 11 1953, Trevor Chappell on 12 10 1952, Terry Alderman on 12 6 1956, Chris Tavare on 27 10 54 and Paul Allott on 14 9 1956

P Bhowmik, Rajganj.
Q Name the book which contains the scores of all Tests
A The Wisden Book of Test cricket by Bill Frindall
Q Why the Test series between England and Australia are called the Cornhill Tests?
A In fact all the Tests in England are known as Cornhill Tests as Cornhill Insurance Company has insured all the Tests in England

Anilendu Bhattacharjee, Gauhati
Q How many wickets has Lillee taken at the end of the England Australia series in England?
A 290 in 54 Tests
Q What is Terry Alderman's Test record in bowling?
A Six Tests against England, 1,944 balls, 76 maiden overs, 883 runs, 42 wickets, 21 02 average, 4 times over 5 wickets in an innings and 6 for 135 at Leeds as his best bowling figures

R. K. Chatterjee, Uttarpara
Q At what age the former England captain Ray Illingworth started his cricket career? What is his best bowling performance? What is his present age?
A 26 years and 46 days and today his age is 49 years In 61 Tests, he has scored 1,836 runs at an average of 23 24 with 2 centuries and captured 122 wickets at 31 20 runs apiece with 6 for 29 as his best bowling

Raju, Narayan, Shiva, Ramesh, Sonary, Jamshedpur
Q How many runs did Gavaskar score in each innings of the Karachi Test against Pakistan in 1978-79?
A 111 and 137

Niranjan Demi Bora, Lakhimpur, S. P Kaisor, Delhi
Q How many runs has Sandeep Patil scored in Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy tournaments?
A Before the commencement of the season 1981-82, Patil has scored 733 runs @ 38 57 per innings of 16 Ranji matches and 511 runs @ 56 77 per innings of six Duleep matches

Q. Can a bowler bowl with both right or left hands in the same over?
A *Yes, provided he informs the umpire beforehand of his intention to do so*
Q. Is a batsman out caught off a wide ball, hit by him?
A. No
Q. Please give me the residential address of the Test umpire Swarup Kishen?
A You may write to him c.o. Delhi and Districts Cricket Association, Ferozshah Kotla Ground, Delhi

Subhas Chand Bhutoria, Howrah.
Q. How many Tests have been won, lost and drawn by India, whenever Gavaskar has scored a century?
A India won six Tests, lost four and 10 Tests were drawn, when Gavaskar hit his 23 centuries (He hit centuries in both innings on three occasions)

Q. How many runs has Sunil Gavaskar scored so far?
A. 6,218 runs in 69 Tests at an average of 53 14

Laxmi Kant Das, Ghigidia.
Q. How many Indians have been honoured by 'Wisden' as one of the "Five cricketers of the year"?
A. K S Ranjitsinhji, K S Duleep Sinhji, Iftikar Ali Khan Pataudi, C K Nayudu, V M Merchant, V Mankad, M A K Pataudi, B S Chandrasekhar and S M Gavaskar

Om Prakash Srivastava, Calcutta
Q What is Vijay Hazare's Test batting record?
A. 30 Tests 52 innings, 6 times not out, 2,192 runs, 164 not out as highest score, 47 65 average, 7 centuries, 9 fifties and 4 zeroes

Q. Who was Kirmani's first Test victim behind the stumps?
A. Bevan Congdon of New Zealand at Christchurch in 1975-76
Q. Who were the first Test victims of Denis Lillee and Ian Botham?
A. Alan Knott of England was Lillee s first Test victim, while Greg Chappell of Australia was Botham's first Test victim

Sushil K. Sethi, Calcutta.
Q. Is Sandeep Patil married? What is his date of birth?
A Yes. He was born on 18th August 1956

M S. Hyder, Baraulni
Q. Has India ever won a Test series against Pakistan and England?
A Yes, in 1952-53 and 1979-80 against Pakistan and in 1971 against England

Bridge

Boris Schapiro

In real life you like some people more than others – that is inevitable The same is undoubtedly true at the bridge table However amiable a person you may be, there will always be one player in the room on whom it would give you the greatest pleasure to inflict a 1400 penalty Personally, I like to think that I don't bear grudges, but in 1958 the South player on the following deal criticised my play of a long-forgotten hand in a long-forgotten article It is just possible that I smiled inwardly more than I might have done as I defended as West

	♠ 10 7 3 ♡ K 6 5 ♢ A 5 ♣ J 8 6 5 3	
♠ 2 ♡ J 9 8 4 ♢ Q J 10 7 2 ♣ K 7 2	N W E S	♠ J 9 8 6 ♡ 10 3 ♢ K 9 6 3 ♣ Q 10 4
	♠ A K Q 5 4 ♡ A Q 7 2 ♢ 8 4 ♣ A 9	

South dealt at love all and this was the bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	pass	2 ♣	pass
3 ♡	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♠	pass	4 ♠	pass
pass	pass		

I led the Queen of diamonds, dummy appeared and declarer stated "You should have shown your Ace of diamonds over my four-club bid! Six could easily be on!"
I had implied earlier that South was a poor analyst even if both major suits break as evenly as possible, there is no play for more than eleven tricks However, the action had the merit of speed Declarer won the first trick, drew two rounds of trumps and, on finding the bad break, decided to test the hearts next He cashed ♡ K and ♡ Q, but my partner trumped ♡ A, put me in with a diamond and was able to overruff dummy when I played a fourth heart There was no escaping a club loser and that was one off "Bother, I should have ducked the first diamond!" was declarer's reaction "But I can just exit with the Jack of spades instead," replied East, "then you are still one off "
I hope that you saw the winning line Not only must declarer duck the opening lead, but when he tackles hearts he must take care to play Ace, King, then low towards the Queen If East ruffs, he is only trumping a loser and he has no way of getting me in to take a second ruff

Last week's quiz: a reader asked what was the 'New Grand Slam Try', apparently very suitable for those playing complex systems, but as yet not approved by the English Bridge Union As I understand the idea, a bid of 5 NT asks "How well have you remembered the system?" The reply of six clubs says "Hopeless – I was lost from the first round of our sequence onwards " Six diamonds suggests that the responder *may* have got his responses right, but that it is unlikely Six-hearts implies moderate confidence – well, you get the idea, with 6 NT confirming that responder can guarantee the accuracy of all his bids An amusing concept

This week's quiz. a reader tells me that in a recent duplicate an opponent left his cards in the board at the start of the deal and made all of his bids with only the help of the hand record card Although, of course, he took his hand out for the play, was this legal?

Chess

Peter Clarke

If you are 'sick of the Sicilian, fed up with the French, angry with Alekhine's' and so on, perhaps the answer for you to 1 P – K4 is 1 Kt – QB3 Opening theorist Tim Harding thinks it deserves a trial, and his latest book, *Nimzowitsch Defence* (published by Batsford in paperback at £5 95), should encourage those afraid to take a chance with an irregular system As usual for Harding's works, it has been thoroughly researched and is rich in references Aron Nimzowitsch, from whom the defence derives its name, was the main pioneer, but his success did not bring many converts at master levels In recent times, however, Keres, Larsen and Korchnoi – not to mention lesser players – have all been willing to try 1 Kt – QB3 when in the mood to get away from the stereotyped lines that are so common in the fashionable defences Here is an example from the early career of the present challenger for the World Championship

White **Nikolai Bekulin**; Black **Viktor Korchnoi** Nimzowitsch Defence (Leningrad, 1950)

1 P – K4, Kt – QB3,	**2 P – Q4, P – Q4**
3 P – K5, B – B4,	**4 P – QB3, P – K3**
5 Kt – K2, P – B3;	**6 P – KB4, P x P**
7 BP x P, QKt – K2,	**8 P – QR4** .

This is meant to discourage the freeing move P – QB4 but White should have got on with his development with 8 Kt – Kt3 or 8 Kt – Q2

8 . . P – Kt3,	**9 Kt – Kt3, P – KR4**
10 Kt – Q2, Q – Q2,	**11 Kt – Kt3, P – Kt3**
12 P – KR4, Q – B3,	**13 B – Q2, B – R3**
14 B – K2, K – B2	

Since Black still has problems sorting out his pieces on the King's wing, he decides to 'castle with the king alone

15 O – O, K – Kt2,	**16 Kt – B1, B – Kt5**
17 Kt – Q3, Kt – B4,	**18 Kt x Ktch, B x Kt**
19 Kt – B4, Kt – K2,	**20 Q – B1, Q – Q2**
21 P – R4, B – K5,	**22 Kt x RPch**

Otherwise Black will play Kt KB4 and have things all his own way

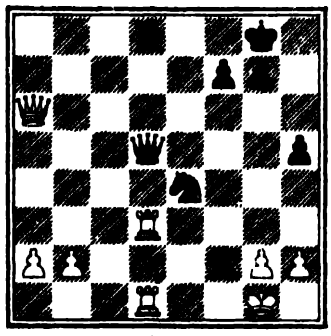
22 P x Kt;	**23 B x Bch, K x B**
24 R – B7ch, K x R,	**25 Q x R, K – Kt1**
26 Q – Kt5ch, Kt – Kt3,	**27 B x P, Q – Kt2**
28 R – KB1, R – KB1,	**29 R – B6, Kt – K2**
30 Q x Qch, K x Q,	**31 R x P, Kt – B4**
32 P – Kt4 . .	

32 R – QB6 was the only chance

32 Kt x RP,	**33 R – K7ch, K – R3**
34 R x P, K – Kt4,	**35 R x P, Kt – B6ch**
36 K – B2, Kt x KPch,	**37 K – K2, B – Q6ch**
38 K – Q2, Kt – B5ch,	**39 K x B, R – B7**
40 Resigns	

Competition 6497 Solution next week

Black



White

Solution to 6488 (Gudmundsson – Szabados, Amsterdam, 1950). (4rk2/5pb1/1n1pP1p1/2p4P/1rP1qP2/4B1P6/P1R1Q2K/3R4 – White to play.) The Icelander surprised his opponent with a promotion combination 38 B x P! Q x Qch 39 R x Q P x B, 40 P K7ch K – Kt1, 41 R – Q8 and Black resigned

Problem No 1162. Solution next week
R. Tuup (First Prize, *Chess Correspondent*, 1946) **(5b2/2p5/K1p1BN1q/pn1rp3/3k4/8/R1Q1PPn1/1N4B6 – 9 white men; 11 black)**
White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1161 (Radenko). (8/2K2n2/1K8/3p4/1p1kp3/1P6/4Rn2/2R1N3 – mate in two.) 1 Q – KB4 (zugzwang) (a) 1 Kt – R6, 2 R – Q2 (b) 1 Kt – Q6 2 Kt – B3, (c) 1 Kt – Q3, 2 Q – B6, (d) 1 Kt – K4, 2 Q K3

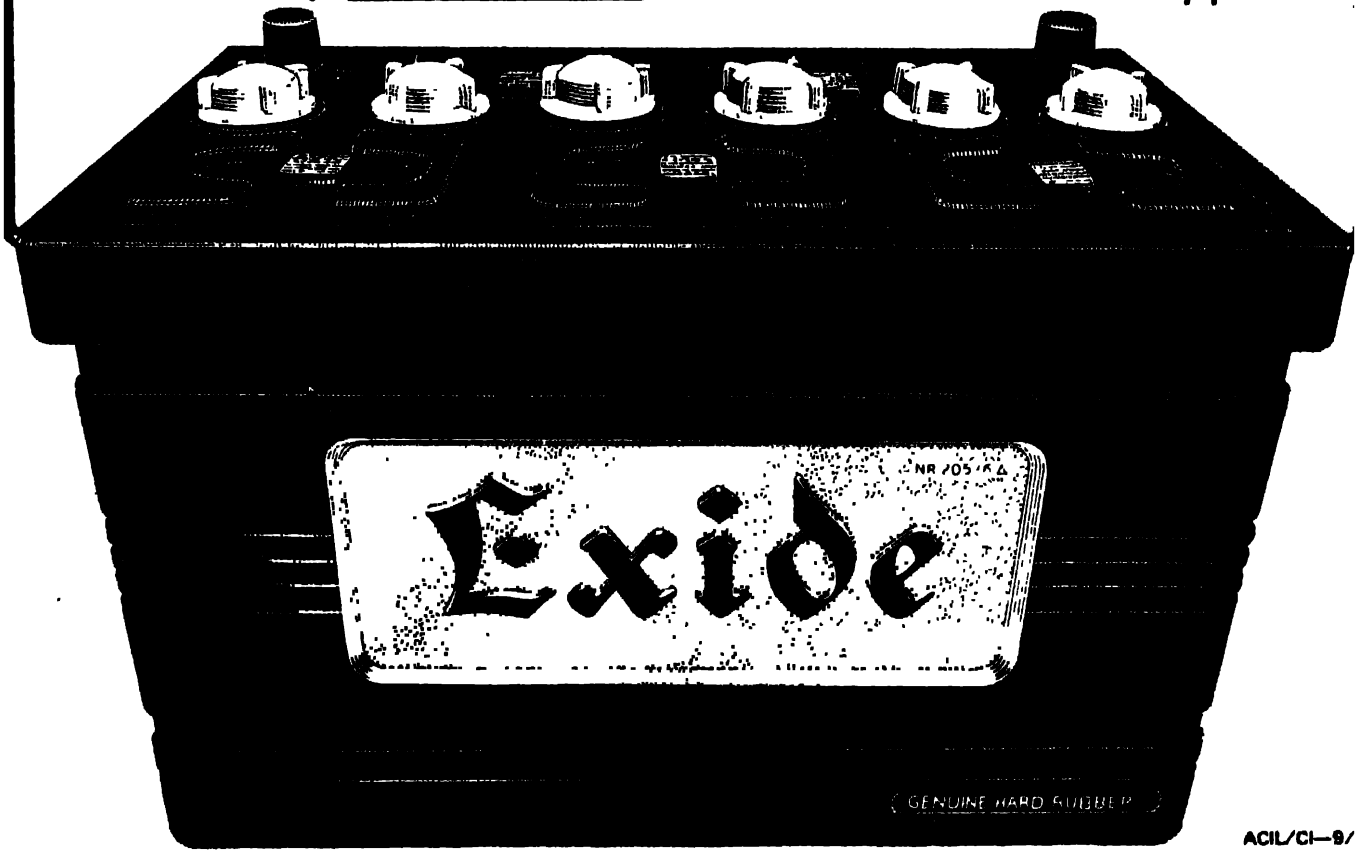


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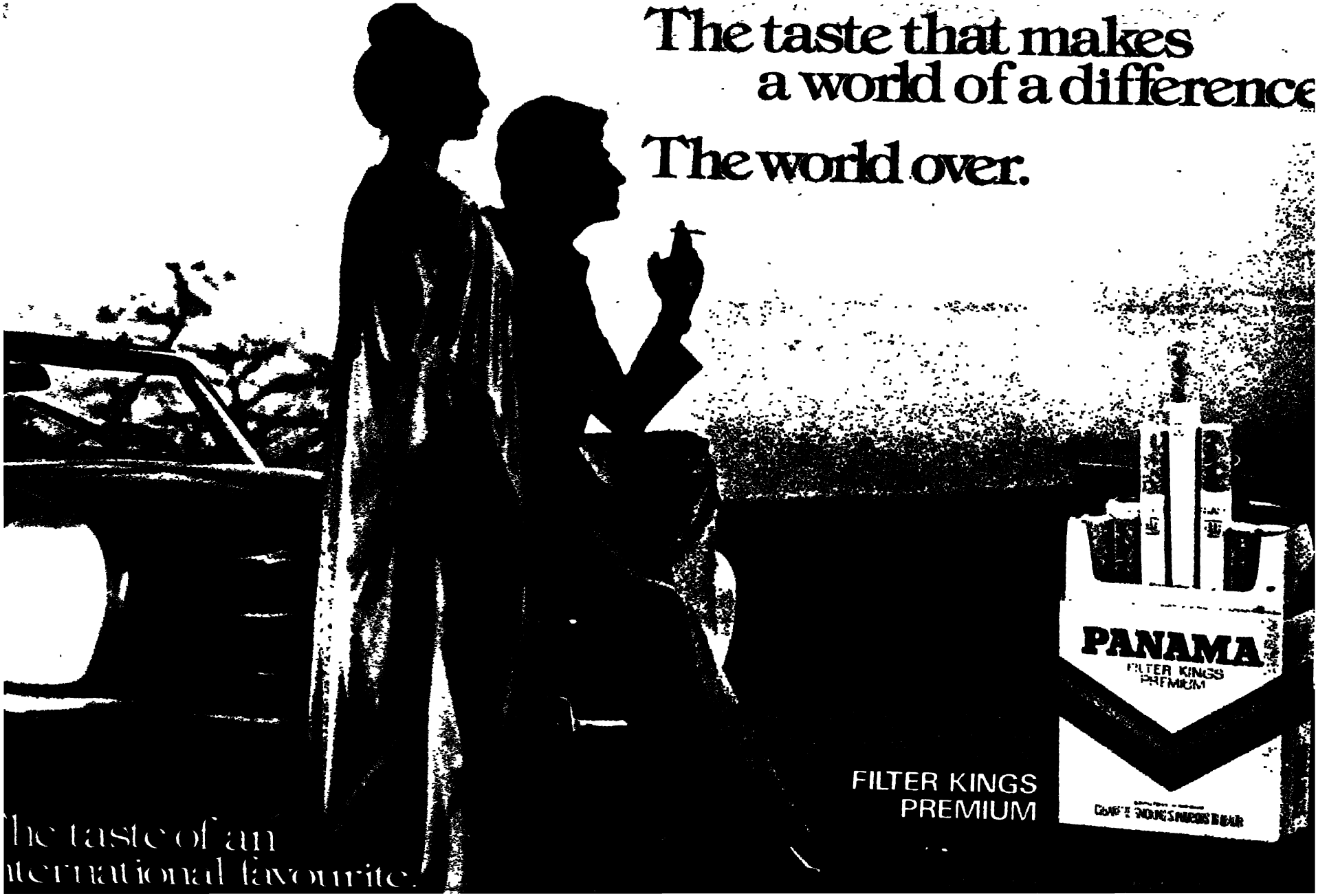
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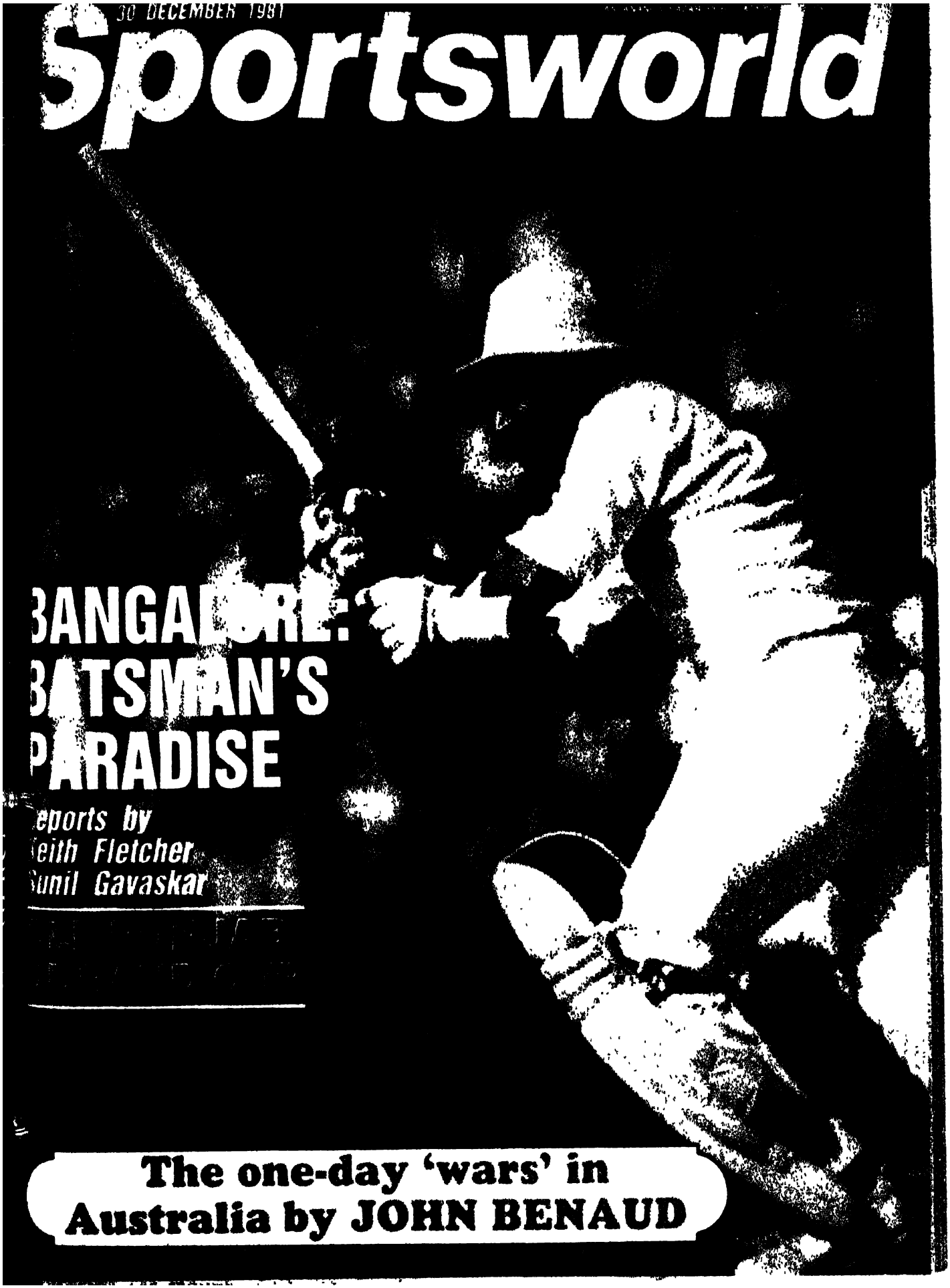


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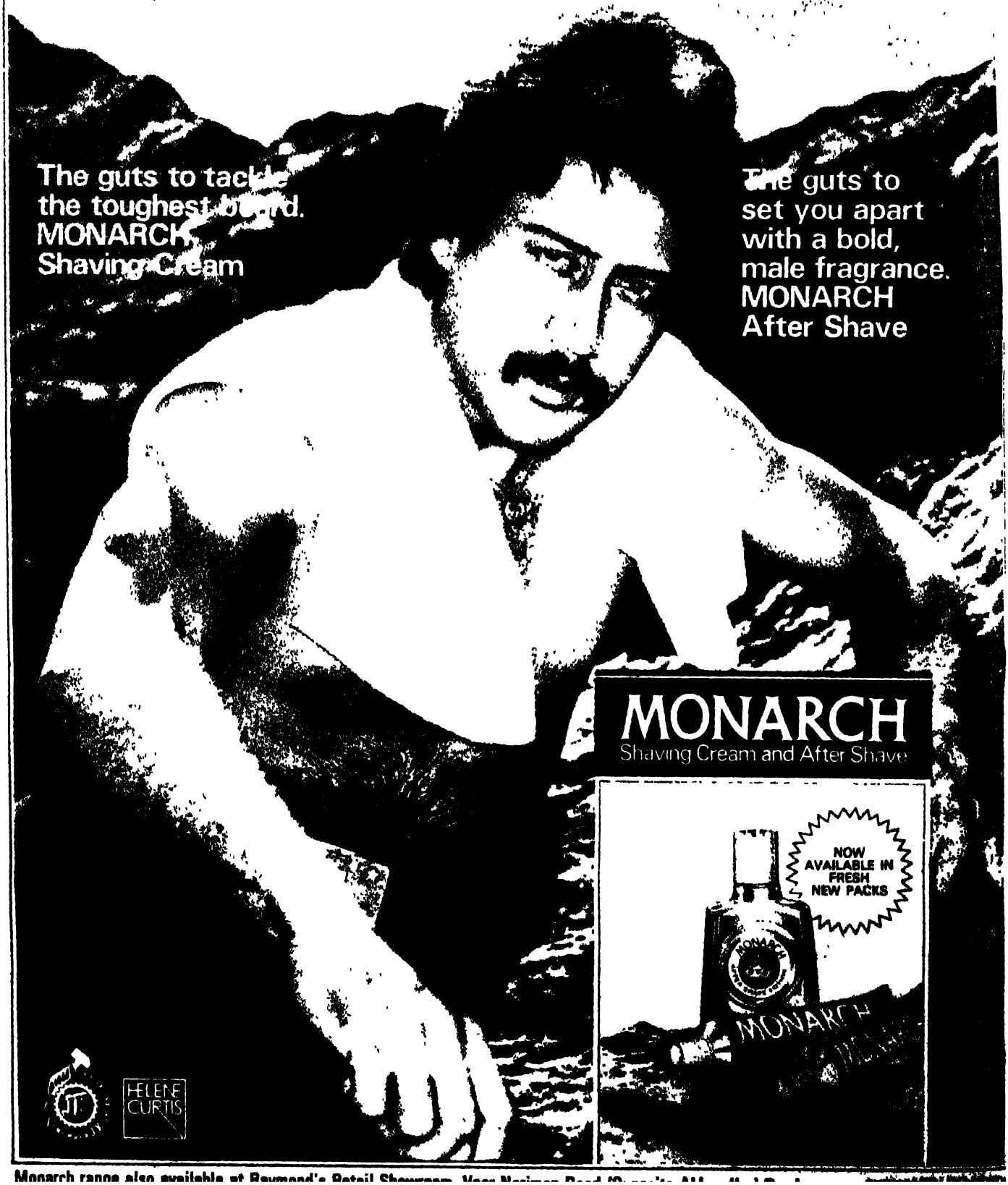


BANGALORE: BATSMAN'S PARADISE

Reports by
Keith Fletcher
Sunil Gavaskar

The one-day 'wars' in Australia by JOHN BENAUD

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Sportsworld 30 December 1981

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Cover transparency of Sunil Gavaskar by Nikhil Bhattacharya

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Letters to the Editor

Unjust

IT was unjust on the part of the Indian selectors to exclude an experienced player like Chauhan from the Indian team They seemed to have dropped Chauhan on the basis of his performance in the domestic circuit But then Vishwanath also did not play well and seemed badly out of form But thanks to the selectors, Vishwanath is very much in the team while Chauhan is dropped Chauhan, along with Patil tried to keep India's flag flying in the last tour of Australia and New Zealand He has also shared a number of useful partnerships with Sunil Gavaskar And then he had to be dropped We think as long as Gavaskar is there, he will try to keep Vishwanath and Vengsarkar, another with very poor form in the team After all, it's all in the family

ANIL BHANDARKAR,
C M SINGH,
Calcutta

AT the very outset my hearty congratulations to the selectors for selecting some talented, but neglected cricketers Madal Lal is a great example He has, no doubt, showed great promise in the last season but still was not considered for the national team for the twin tour. We hope he will be able to justify his place and will play in all the Test matches But, at the same time, we found it a bit astonishing to see that Chauhan has been dropped It was very unfair

DHRUBAJYOTI BORAH,
SWARUPJYOTI BORAH,
Assam

Worst behaved

DAVID McMAHON's analysis of the Lillee-Miandad clash at Perth in the issue of *Sportsworld* December 2, was an unbiased one and helps us to get to know both sides of a rather disgraceful incident

Lillee's atrocious action deserved suspension from two Test matches and not from one day games The fine suggested by his teammates was ridiculously low and one also feels that the ACB should have taken a stronger step The Pakistan manager's statement that Lillee would never have played another Test had he belonged to his country was equally startling Sikandar continues to play for Pakistan despite his shocking behaviour in India

VIJAY CHORGADE,
Pune.

Shame

THE front-liners of Bengal cricket from whom the young aspirants expect inspiration are tarnishing their image and that of cricket by their misbehaviour

I happened to be a spectator on November 28, 1981 at the match between Aurora and the Mohammedan Sporting Club played at the latter's ground I was surprised to see how reputed players of the Mohammedan Sporting Club teased the batsmen of Aurora right through the game, thereby disturbing their concentration. The verbal irritation prompted one Aurora player to complain to the umpire who, in turn, retorted that it was part of the game If such things are encouraged, then



SHOHINI GHOSH

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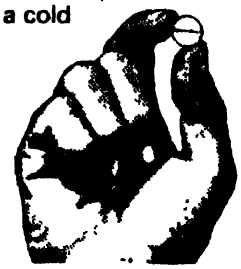
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the standard of cricket in Bengal will go further down and cricket at club-level will cease to be the source of enjoyment it still is.

B. BHARADWAJ,
Calcutta.

Inadequate

THE recently-concluded hockey Test series between India and Pakistan has given a great fillip to the game in this country. But I feel that just two matches in a vast nation like India is not enough.

Considering that hockey is a game lasting only 70 minutes, at least ten matches should have been held all over the country apart from the five Test matches that need to be arranged. Our failure to do this has resulted in cricket being more popular than hockey in the recent years.

HARDEEP SINGH,
Ranchi

THE second hockey Test was an absurd fiasco culminating in the two umpires having a private battle of the whistle. The degeneration started from the 20th minute and there followed 23 penalty corners, eight corners and four penalty strokes When a so-called international meet between two exponents of the game plunges to a level where the referees resort to downright, blatant crookery then we can, but mourn for the game. It is hoped that the respective hockey associations will take stern disciplinary measures against the referees involved

M. DEEPAK KUMAR,
Calcutta.

HEARTIEST congratulations to the Pakistan hockey team led by seasoned campaigner Akhtar Rasool for winning the 'Test' series against India. India's weakness in scoring from penalty corners was once more revealed at Karachi and if it carries on she might find herself in a disastrous state in the coming World Cup to be held in Bombay soon. What India needs now is the experience of Bhaskaran in the half-line and the reflexes of Zafar Iqbal in the forward line Unfortunately, these two players are victims of allegedly dirty politics played by the Indian Hockey Federation. Call them back.

DR. S. K. GUHA,
Balijan North.

Congratulations!

HEARTIEST congratulations to Sunil Gavaskar and his men for their magnificent victory against the Englishmen. Let me also offer the same to Kapil Dev for his splendid performance as an all-rounder.

ASHWIN PRABHU,
Bombay

PLEASE convey my congratulations to Madan Lal and Kapil Dev for their mighty spell of bowling and for fetching India a victory which no one till lunch on the second day had thought was possible. Kapil Dev's batting proved that we have an answer to their Ian Botham

RAJAT TANDON,
Patna

KUDOS to the Indian bowlers who have done an excellent job in achieving victory in the First Test at Bombay. Their brilliant performance both in batting and bowling deserves praise

SHIRSANKA,
Calcutta.

HATS OFF to Gavaskar and Co, for the splendid victory over England. Both Kapil Dev and Madan Lal have proved that whereas England has one Ian Botham, India has two to bring it many more victories

ASHOK ROHRA,
Bombay

Poor show

YOUR cover story 'A Year to go .. But Asiad still a dream' of the *Sportsworld* issue of November 25 made me blush with shame The enigma of completion looks definitely in the negative of this politically chequered Asian Games If the government does not resort to methods on a wartooting to complete what is left then I feel that it would be better to leave the work unfinished rather than half-done The 'damp-squib' situation will definitely be one of the first of its type in sporting history.

P V. SIVAKUMAR,
Secunderabad.

The report on the second Test between Australia and Pakistan by David McMahon was from Brisbane and not from Melbourne. The error is regretted—Editor

Editor's page



THE personality of a captain (that is if he has one) can be imposed on the team even if it is full of hardened professionals. Look at Brearley and Tony Greig. One led quietly and unassumingly, but there was no question as to who was in charge on the field. As for Greig, standing inches above his players, he was in charge everywhere, making speeches, placating the crowd, scoring runs when needed, and replacing tired bowlers by his deceptively easy off-breaks. He also spent much of his time stooping menacingly at silly point, and being thoroughly convincing while appealing, his teammates joining in like a well-trained chorus. For many umpires Greig's retirement has come as a distinct relief. And now Fletcher is here, and we see a different brand of behaviour. This is probably the most democratically led side to come to India for over a decade, and it has decided not to make its disapproval either too vociferous or obvious. Out or not every batsman will await the umpire's decision, and if not happy, each will hesitate or look confounded. But he will not do as Boycott did in the Jubilee Test, turn his back as an adverse decision was expected and embarrass the umpire into lowering an upraised finger. Boycott succeeded on that occasion, but that was entirely due to the lack of conviction of an unsure umpire. This kind of gamesmanship we can do without.

Indian umpiring as far as Mr. Subba Row is concerned, is not biased, only incompetent. There is more than a hint here that a few other umpires are going to fall within this category in the next few weeks.

What Mr. Row should realise (he probably does) that in spite of a comprehensive explanation of the l.b.w. rule, there is enough room for interpretations. Wherever it is written 'if in the opinion of the umpire' individuals will differ, perhaps, even in principle.

A few years back, Mr. R. G. Nadkarni making his maiden appearance for the Rest of the World, appealed repeatedly for l.b.w., as English batsmen put their foot down and tried to sweep. By the end of the day Mr. Nadkarni was hoarse, but the umpires remained adamant. In the evening 'Bapu' complained to the other Indian players that had he been playing in Bombay he would have been five wickets richer. He was told that since he was not in Bombay he had better catch the batsmen on the back foot if he wanted an l.b.w.

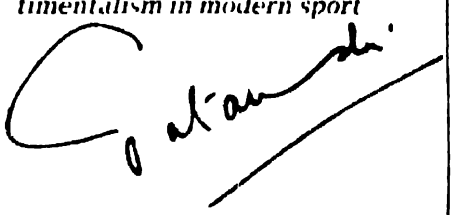
In India the English players have not been happy with some of the decisions given against them, when they have played against the line of the ball, but according to policy they have returned to the pavilion, and left it to the British Press to express and publicise their disapproval.

Openly biased umpiring, as witnessed in the Bombay India-Pakistan hockey international, can ruin a game while giving an unfair advantage to any one side, but since it has been publicly acknowledged that the umpiring so far in the present series does not fall into this category of blatant partialism it is only the quality of play that will decide the series. Bedi had complained about the umpiring in Pakistan, Gavaskar and New Zealand did the same in Australia, and plenty of sides have done so in the West Indies. Nobody has denied that the better side won or equal cricket produced a draw.

Indians, by and large, are accommodating and generous hosts. We are tolerant and hospitable almost to a fault. We meet the opponents at the airport with garlands and are at their beck and call 24 hours a day. They are entertained lavishly in the evenings, and most shopkeepers are prepared to give a heavy discount. Still that is our business, but what we should and do not discourage is the English manager doubting the umpires' ability to decide whether Willis has been overstepping into the danger area in his follow through, and checking this fact with a measuring tape during an interval. Can you imagine Col. Adhikari doing it at Lord's? I cannot. Nor can I visualise Sandeep Patil giving a shoulder charge to Boycott, and getting away with an enforced apology, and I often wonder whether, if Javed Miandad had given Chappell a kick in the pants during a Sydney Test, his punishment would have been a well-earned rest from two one-day matches.

And so, in many ways Indians do get what they deserve, and much of it to their disadvantage. Neither India nor Indian players are going to 'walk' and the umpires are going to make mistakes. Further, the Indian umpire is realising that, there is no future in cowing down to pressure, he will only be making himself eligible for more. All that one can ask of him is to deliberate a little before saying 'yea or nay' and not point skywards before the appeal has half left a fielder's throat.

And all one can ask of the players, is to try and make life a little easier for him, but since this seems unlikely, umpiring will suffer from its full share of criticism and innuendoes. Neutral professional umpiring has to be introduced, the sooner the better. No matter how distasteful the concept may be to traditionalists, I am afraid that there is no longer any room for sentimentalism in modern sport.



ALL IN THE GAME

EASY DOUGH

Lying down

Sometimes investments don't fetch dividends Take the case of football clubs which induct star players against lucrative incentives. Or call it underhand dealings As the season progresses one such player sustains an injury—and that is enough for him to miss a number of matches—and the perticular club has to bear the brunt. Such instances are not few in Calcutta and abroad The latest one is that of Great Britain's striker Trevor Francis, who currently dons the jersey of the popular Manchester City Club Because of a thigh injury he was admitted to hospital for a manipulative operation after having made seven appearances since the club signed him for £1 million more than three months ago Trevor, who left Nottingham Forest for City, earlier got a knee injury in his fourth league encounter and missed eight engagements One may recall that a couple of years back, he had a long lay-off because of a severed Achilles tendon.

A MAMMOTH BREAK

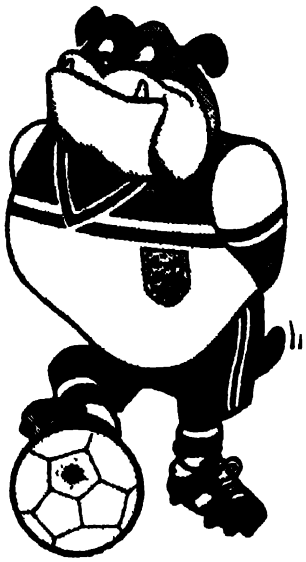
From the perilous

Snooker followers will, perhaps, remember Sydney Lee—better known as the "Man in the white gloves—who at the age of 71 was fighting for dear life Pain and paralysis of the body was a pitiable sight—and unbearable to all and sundry But he still had a ray of hope for survival. He did live after a successful operation to remove a shattered disc at the top of the spine in Wimbledon's Atkinson Morley Hospital Unbelievingly, Lee suffered for 17 long months when he fell down the stairs and sustained the major accident As for his wife and children it was a terrible nightmare overcome The doctors say that within a short time he will be able to play and referee again. But he is not too sure whether he will be fully fit. So he would rather be remembered as he was. Incidentally, Lee wrested the English Boys Billiards title at the age of 14 and then played with all the greats in both snooker and billards. To know Sydney Lee well one has to leaf over the pages of the *Guiness Book of Snooker.*

A DOG'S TALE

Told by Bobby

Immediately after England qualified for the World Cup soccer finals beginning in June, 1982 the Football Association decided to go in for commercial action. The FA's idea is to pool in about £750 000 prior to the start of the World Cup in Madrid It believes a "massive interest in football presents major opportunities for advertising, promotion and licensed merchandise."



And on whose shoulders will this responsibility fall? On the broad shoulders of a benign bulldog, who refrains from smoking and drinking. but does not mind a little beer occasionally. This emblem has found many companies joining the queue, and one expects that the returns will be gigantic

So "Bobby Bulldog"—the official mascot to run England's campaign—do start working. But please wait for the FA to give you the signal before you knock at the doors of the commercial firms.

REACH FOR THE MOON

And hit the dust

A tussel developed outside the snooker table for "appearance" money. The issue centred on last year's United Kingdom snooker runner-up, Alex Higgins, when his agents, Sportsworld (no, we have nothing to do with them) ignored an invitation in his behalf to play in Yorkshire TV's Pro-Celebrity series. But one of the directors of Sportsworld, Mr Harvey Lisberg demanded appearance fees in addition to the guarantee money to be divided among the contestents Lesberg probably had his reason to demand a fee for his client as, he felt, Higgins "was the biggest draw in the game". At the same time, he doubted Higgins' world ranking because is was affected last May for misconduct when he was fined two ranking points

Just when this demanding business was going on, the World Professional Billiard and Snooker Association decided, at a special meeting and in the clearest possible terms to ban appearance money saying that any contravention will result in suspension or expulsion from the WPBSA Ltd Sorry, Mr Harvey Lisberg, the world body is more professional in its dealings!

UNUSUAL

New Year's Gift

It shall be a happy New Year's day for athletes The British Amateur Athletic Board is likely to implement the world body rule on advertising and amateurism It may be recalled that the rule was given consent to at Rome by the world organisation. A committee has been set up by the English Board to deal with the issue, like handling the entire dealings with the athletes or their agents with regard to advertising ventures. So it simply means that the BAAB will have total control, even concerning the payment after the implementation of the rule. The athletes can now appear in the newspapers and on the television provided the board agrees with a provision that it, too, gets a percentage of the earnings to promote the sport. So the New Year's gift is in the offing.

THE ARRIVAL

Of mother and child

The 1980 Wimbledon ladies singles champion Evonne Goolagong Cawley of Australia, it may be said, did not defend her All England title because of the impending arrival Till then nothing was heard of her in tennis But now she's back—looking fresh as ever. She has given birth to her second child and her re-entry has all the more delighted the highly-partisan spectators. And what were



the tennis-loving Australians so happy about? Evoone, as usual, displayed her fighting qualities against her American Black opponent Lesley Allen after conceding the first set It took the Aussie star more than two hours to win amidst the frequent applause which Miss Allen disapproved because it forced her into several mistakes. The American lass was in a very good position in the decider but the constant cheering spoiled her game and she was in tears. Poor thing! Mrs Cawley, too, was embarrassed All this occurred in the second round of the Australian Women's Championship recently.

My most memorable moments

ANWAR AHMED KHAN



... number ... player. ... the city ... of ... where his elder ... That is ... for nearly ... December 24, ... to play hockey ... years ago. In his ... Bahadur, he was ... all-round sporting all-rounder. He said that he was privileged to play cricket with the late Nawab of Pataudi at the Aligarh ground. Hockey circles in India know very well the brand of hockey the Bhopal Wanderers played and Anwar was a member of that famous team at one time. He also represented the Iqubraia Club and the Aligarh University.

When he moved to Karachi he played for All Autos Club and the Karachi University. For about 13 years he played for Sind and later captained the Karachi province. After this, he joined the Pakistan Railways and stayed with the institute for a couple of years then opting to lead the Pakistan Customs' side. Today he is a senior inspector with them.

In the 1952 trials at Peshawar, Anwar Ahmed Khan was dropped because he was too young. However, two years later he was selected to don Pakistan colours for the tour of Malaysia and West Germany. That was in the Sixties.

Injury is a common feature among sportsmen and Anwar was no exception. During an exhibition encounter between the Pakistan XI versus the Rest he sustained a fracture on the left foot. Finally, his biggest international competition came in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Since then he has participated in three Olympics and two Asian Games.

Anwar has shooting as his only other hobby. He was coach, manager of the national squad, member of the selection panel on many occasions and gave technical advice to the PHA president Nur Khan. He was also deputed to coach the Indonesian national team.

Pakistan was yet to earn an Olympic hockey gold but at the Melbourne Games in 1956 the silver was an honour. Though we could not wrest the gold from India I was in the team which got the silver medal that was the biggest award for me. I still recall that ... final match in which ... one goal, against West ... and that is still a ... remember how that goal was ... by Balbir. Our ... defended ... and Randhir took ... the 'D' and I was ... his best the great Principal ... Randa sounded the ... whistle, which ... unleashing Laxman. It was the greatest match of my career, though the one at Melbourne was no less.

But I won't deny the fact that India was a great team, never to be underestimated. They are all true friends of mine and I still remember them and their glorious hockey. There was yet another honour in store for me at Rome. I was declared the best centre-half of the world.

My second Asian Games at Jakarta was another memorable one. We retained the hockey title after defeating our neighbours 2-0. Atif was the skipper. Naturally, it goes without saying how overjoyed I was. Two years later(1964) I participated in my last Olympics at Tokyo where India stormed back into the scene and snatched the hockey crown from us. So, in a span of 12 years I won three golds and two silvers.

But my happy moments did not end there. In 1966, Air Marshal Nur Khan presented me with a gold medal for good exhibition hockey over the years. The pinnacle of glory was reached that same year when the late Pakistan President Ayub Khan awarded me the highest honour of the land—"Timagha Imtiaz" (identical to the Arjuna Award).

Thrice I led the national side, from 1963 to 1966, against Japan in the Test series, on tours abroad and to the Ghanafo Games in Indonesia. Then I retired. How can I ever forget the day when after we beat Kenya in the Karachi Test the news came to me that my wife had given birth to a son. A double triumph, I think. I have only to say that each and every sportsman has got to experience both the good and the bad, victory and defeat. Perhaps, this is the greatest quality a sportsman should possess. Sportsmen bring the world closer. There should be love and respect for one another—and without any discrepancy. Perhaps, this is the only answer to strengthen international brotherhood.

As told to SUBHASH SARCAR

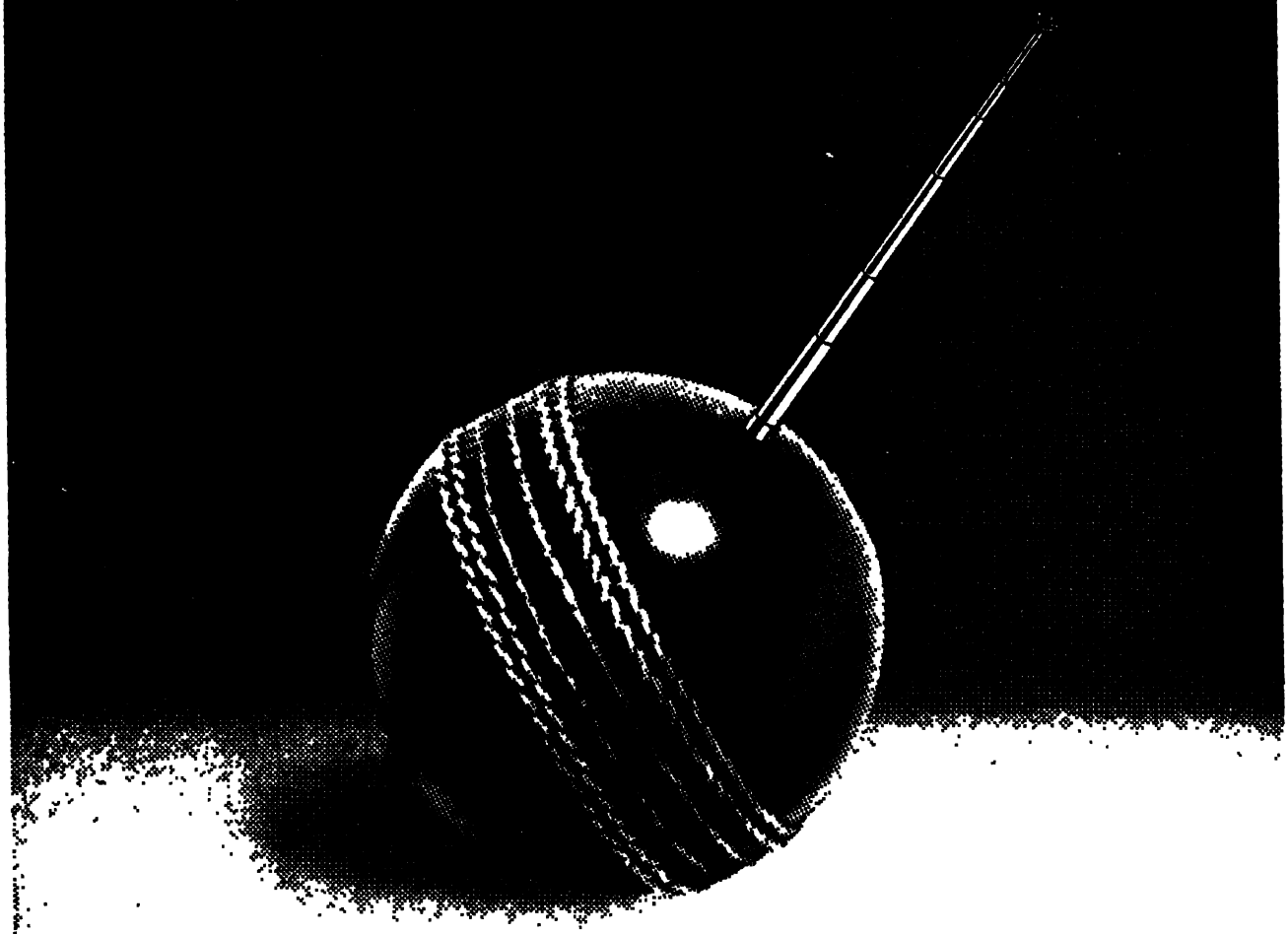
few Australian girls came to me to share in my happiness. Later, they asked me to accompany them for a cup of coffee. You see, you just can't go off as you like. So I sought my manager's consent. This was necessary because we were very strict about discipline. He granted it by telling the eves to treat me nicely. But he did have a word for me: 'return quick'.

I also played in the 1958 Asian Games in which hockey was introduced for the first time. I was proud to be in the side. It remains the greatest experience of my life as we were able to snatch the gold away from our most formidable rivals. Of course, the triumph came indirectly after a keenly-contested game the result stood blank but we won on goal average. It was an achievement and something to rejoice about. We had a regal celebration which included the traditional Punjabi dance—the Bhangra. But one occasion that I still remember and feel proud of is the rare photograph I had the honour to take with the Maharaja and Maharani of Patiala who were also there.

Under the captaincy of Hamidi we flew to Rome with determination writ large on our faces to win the Olympic hockey gold. Could we do it this time? There was exhilaration and ecstatic joy when we succeeded through the solitary goal scored by Nasir Bunda.

We literally wept and celebrated without a wink of sleep that night. A long cherished dream had been accomplished. As for me, that auspicious day is still vivid like the reflection of a mirror. The hockey tournament of the Rome Olympics [illegible] highlight. In all the ... we conceded only

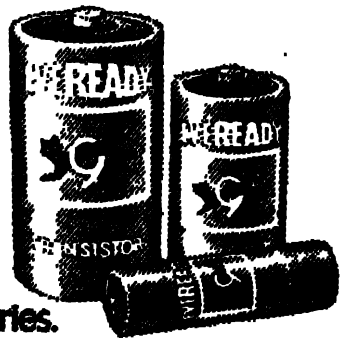
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Centenary

There was little he couldn't do

HE who is oblivious of Major George Aubrey Faulkner has also possibly not heard of cricket and South Africa.

The centenary of this very great all-rounder which was on December 17 may have been commemorated with the issue of a postage stamp in his own country, but here he didn't get a mention even in the trivialities in the column on the sports page Sad. There's some Indian sentiment involved. Faulkner had trained our very own 'Duleep' in his brief days of enchanting bloom. And relieved the Indian Prince of a fallability outside the off-stump in his early days. "Come and have a look at 'Duleep'," Faulkner would say "It isn't only a question of how to get him out, but how to stop him scoring 60 runs an hour"

Faulkner died an early death in London in 1930 when just 48, by his own doing. One fine day after sustained disillusionment he gassed himself, terminating a person of humble temperament, more willing to cast an encouraging gaze on others than to speak of his own records and himself "I am off to another realm via the bat-room," he wrote in his final message It summed up the man behind the all-rounder.

After their 4-1 success in 1906 South Africa toured England for the first time in 1907 and Faulkner was on the ship In all games for his country he made 1288 runs apart from capturing 73 wickets He shone in the second Test, a match that England won by 53 runs. At Lord's in the opening match the home team had run up 428. Now, at Headingley on a gluepot, Faulkner caused a somersault of fortunes and no batsman had any sort of answer to his type of bowling England was shot out for just 76, Faulkner returning with dream figures of six for 17 He had bowled only eleven overs, four runless!

And suddenly everyone was beginning to ask whether Palmer or Spofforth could have done better To play Faulkner, according to 'Dick' Lilley, the English wicketkeeper, was 'like playing Briggs through the air and Richardson off the pitch' As tiresome as torture He took 12 in the three Tests at 18 each and led his country's averages

Faulkner touched his high noon in early 1910 against visiting England He began on a season of mind-numbing consistency with a 78 in the first innings at Johannesburg, South Africa making 208 Going on to bowl he captured five for 120, a feat which he followed with 123 in the second innings. Not content, he added to it three for 40 and England was beaten by 19 runs Vogler and he had split all the wickets amongst themselves! Three weeks later, at Durban, Faulkner captured six for 87 in the final innings of the match to rid England for 252 and win by 95 runs It couldn't last, the English told themselves But in the third Test Faulkner playing like one possessed hit an unexceeded 76 out of 305 He tried to change the course of a slipping game, hit 44 in the second innings and captured six wickets but England had still three men unused when the total had been crossed The Cape Town game decided the series In a match of low scores no South African made over 350 but Faulkner aggregated 59 for once out, took four wickets and held five catches South Africa won the Test by four wickets as well as a hard-wrought series That Faulkner, the Englishmen must have cursed Four days later, in the match at the same venue in an equally abundant mood Faulkner hit 99 and rounded off the series with 545 runs, the highest from both sides, averaging 60 per outing His average of 21 from 29 wickets was marginally behind Vogler's average for 36 wickets. Seldom has an all-rounder done so much for so many

The 1910-11 series in Australia was, perhaps, Faulkner's greatest batting triumph In all, he hit 2080 runs, taking 60 wickets and his record 732 runs in the Test matches was not exceeded by even the great Trumper himself

Faulkner got his first century against the Combined Universities and went into the second Test in appreciable form He justified the selection He hit 204, more than half in boundaries in five and a half hours out of 368 Cotter, a demon till just a few days ago, was thrashed for 158 runs and Armstrong for 138 His only two errors were at 64 and 126 and *Wisden* was compelled to call it 'the innings of his life' No one crossed 77 and even Victor Trumper confessed that the South African had taught them a thing or two about batting!

No wonder Clem Hill told Sir Pelham Warner that he never saw anyone bat as well in Australia as the handsome South African.

Faulkner had his hour of glory when in 1921 A C MacLaren sent him a telegram asking if he is available to play against the Australians(!) at the Saffrons, till then unbeaten Under Armstrong on his last tour they had won three Tests in a 'we mean business' fashion and playing them was an absolutely despondent prospect But Archie stuck to a cheery front saying he knew how they could be beaten, sent a cable to Cardus to be present and proceeded to pick eleven amateurs to beat the might of Australia. Old Archie being unusually optimistic, you could have said. But by lunch on the first day Archie had half of England laughing at him; his rag-a tag side had been bowled out for 48! By that evening Australia had already made 174 and had in return begun on the final act of demolition by capturing the first of MacLaren's wickets for only eight At last, Archie would have to eat his words..

MacLaren was himself bowled off the first ball by McDonald next morning signalling his exit for all time from first class cricket in England Cardus had already begun to leave, his bag sent to the railway station. And the ground was more empty than full. But bats of defiance stuck—Faulkner and Hubert Ashton—the South African, according to *Wisden*, playing his greatest innings after the one in the Triangular Test. He dominated the bowling with rare authority, making a historic 153, leaving the Australians with 196 to win. By that same evening Australia, had lost its first wicket, Collins out for 25 Archie was quite excited when he turned round to go to sleep that night Win or lose, there was a big day ahead. A world hung in balance next morning and almost immediately Hanson Carter was caught off Falcon, Bardsley bowled by Gibson, the great Macarteney castled by Falcon and the game was anyone's—Australia 93 for five

But at one stage the formula seemed to have been upset as Ryder and Andrews set on, turning the wheel of the game towards Australia. Half the side left and just 56 needed, ah, they said, almost there But, in a trice it had happened Ryder slashed at a good length ball and was out and Andrews enjoying his tenure was bowled by Faulkner without reason The great Gregory went for no score and Armstrong was ill at ease against Faulkner. He survived one strong lbw appeal but from then on the Gods deserted him. He was struck on the pads and that was the end of him and as if in a hurry, Gibson bowled Mailey for no score Archie MacLaren had kept his word! By 28 runs

But few batsmen made runs with more assurance Add to that the cardinal virtues of bowling yorkers at an imperceptible speed and an altogether illegible googly Top it up with the ability to take almost any diving catch in the slips All in one man You don't have too many like them in the history of cricket

MUDAR PATHERYA

Sportsworld Exclusive

THE BENSON AND HEDGES CUP

Still anybody's money

It's war in Australia at present with three teams in a frantic attempt to win the triangular one-day internationals. JOHN BENAUD reports on the latest stage of the attrition



Gordon Greenidge

THE bad news for the West Indians on this latest sortie to Australia is not just the fact that they've lost two of the three one-day limited over internationals. It is that their trump batsman, the amazing Viv Richards with his flashing bat, is failing. And failing along with him are the rest of the batsmen. If we observers are inclined to go along the proverbial 'one further' and suggest that 'Father Time' may be shadowing a few of their great fastmen, then prospects are looking a little towards the grim side. The latest loss was at the hands of Miandad's Pakistanis, this time in Adelaide It is not unfair to say the result was a shock and not only because Pakistan have been so incompetent in every department in the two full Tests played against Australia

The real point is that Pakistan batting first, on a pitch well watered on account of another game that was to be played the next day, totalled a meagre 140. And it was nothing short of a miracle that they managed it At one stage, five wickets had gone for just 35 runs And even at seven down for 68 the 'ton' did seem but a misty dream Holding, Roberts, Marshall and Garner shared the scalps But observing the golden rule of the limited-over games the Pakistani tail, led by the scruff of the neck by the one surviving batsman Zaheer, hung in there until the 49th over Zaheer was the top scorer with 46 and with the new ball bowler Sarfraz added what turned out to be a match winning 57 Sarfraz was unbeaten with 34 A real slap in the face to those critics who wondered if his contribution in that first Test batting debacle against Australia was just a fluke Sandwiched in the front of that stand was a contribution from the off spinner Ejaz Faqih who made 20. That alone is enough to mention Faqih, but another reason is clear later on in this report when his dismissal of Greg Chappell in the game against the Australians comes under notice.

So, there were few who gave the Pakistanis a chance The Pakistani bowling has been indifferent, perhaps, disheartened by what is best-termed as schoolboyish fielding Sarfraz took no chances of a catch going down by bowling Greenidge One for seven. Haynes and Richards tickled edges to Ashraf and it was three for 38. The new pair, Baccus and skipper Lloyd looked well in control, rolling along to 85. Then Miandad achieved the dream of every captain—he gambled on a spinner and the gamble paid. Wasim Raja whose wrong 'uns and top spinners have been dealt with quite severely in the Tests, bowled Bacchus Then he bowled Dujon. Five for 88 Marshall immediately set about expounding his all-round reputation by hitting up 20, but lost Lloyd and Murray when it was 107. Two more wickets went at 120.

When strongman Imran came back to clean up the mess the West Indies were still nine runs short of a win. And embarrassed. There must have been much soul searching. They seem not to have settled on a combination as yet Natural, perhaps, as they do have a few new boys. But they will need to win their next two games. And they will need to be handsome wins. Not just from the point of view of hanging into the competition but for rebuilding confidence.

How Pakistan reacted to the win, whether it be with more determination to beat Australia or with over confidence, was not too clear when the proceedings got underway the next day. For instance, Miandad did not bother to offer the ball to his match winner of the day before—Wasim Raja. Raja had bowled seven overs for 28 runs and four wickets On a tamer and drier pitch Australia's progress was steady Predictably, Darling, opening with Wood coming in at number six, was run out And Wood was the best of the batsmen, unbeaten on 43 in the total of 208 Once again, Australia failed to bat for their allotted 50 overs, succumbing on the third ball of the 49th. Imran was the best of the bowlers with three for 19 from 9 3 overs

Miandad's leadership could only be regarded as questionable He bowled Zaheer for six overs They cost 41 runs Ejaz had 43 taken from seven overs All this when the Australians were struggling at five down for 136. Pakistan never really looked to have the drive to win. They were five for 91 with only Zaheer looking to have the urgency about him that might force the win But when he went to a marvellous forehead high catch at cover-point off a slashing square drive, the rest was easy for Australia. It was Greg Chappell's gentle medium pace that skittled them Ten overs and three for 31, that went nicely with his 38 with the bat to earn him the Man of the Match

He rather came out the man too in a brush with Miandad. Chappell was leg before to Faqih, after surviving first a close run out and another leg before decision. As he strode away from the pitch he was seen to stop and turn back towards Miandad and a group of Pakistanis. It was clear something had been said to the Australian captain Chappell reportedly asked umpire French if 'Miandad was going to get away with it again'. And after the

game Chappell said "Miandad wished me all the best." Miandad denied that he had told Chappell to '————off' And the next day he revealed that it had all been a horrible misunderstanding over the pronounciation of Faqih's name Miandad said that he had told his bowler "Faqih, you have got him out the third time". He insisted that it was just all a terrible misunderstanding. Chappell, not amused at the time judging by the waved finger at Miandad, won't be happy with that little explanation either. Let there be no doubt that this Pakistan side has made plenty of enemies. Australia will be glad to see them go.

THE one-day triangular series among the West Indies, Australia and Pakistan stood at one-all after the first three games. Pakistan surprised everybody and their regained confidence after the debacle in Perth against Australia once again showed just how divorced the limited overgames are from the five-day affairs. The results went thus West Indies beat Pakistan in Melbourne, Pakistan beat Australia in Melbourne and Australia beat the West Indies under the SCG lights The interesting point about the last result was that Australia has never lost to the Caribbean cavaliers under those conditions

It is only luck that has had the SCG games going ahead The lights have had their fair share of problems since it was discovered at the season's start that the huge, thick, grey stanchions might fall over in high winds New lights have been banked around the roofs of the grandstands to make up for those eliminated from the towers This was done to lessen the weight on the towers But an electrical tradesman's strike in Sydney has meant that the new lights have not been inspected and so boundaries have had to be shortened to ensure fieldsmen in the deep are not inconvenienced With the new lights inoperative they would be in the dark, so to speak.

The West Indies began as expected Haynes and Greenidge impressed as the finest opening pair in the world today with a run blitz, a stand of 182 Such fine strokeplay probably deserves luck and so it was The score was only four when Haynes, still yet to score, launched one of his spectacular cover drives at Imran His outside edge flew fast to Qasim at second slip who fumbled the chest-high stinger Later, when the damage was really being done and truly in good old-fashioned slogging style, Majid and Qasim dropped relatively easy catch and bowl chances The West Indies were nearly upon the 150 mark by then. West Indies captain Clive Lloyd might have been alarmed at what happened once the pair finally went The tourists lost their last eight wickets for only 62

True, most were out to outlandish cross-batted attempts But one expects these champions of the one-day game to keep their cool. Bacchus, the new lad, and Gomes who is noted more for his solid application in the Test arena, looked completely out of it Only Sarfraz and Imran looked completely the part with the ball. Sarfraz got four for 37 off his nine overs, Imran three for 23 off his 10. Greenidge, 102, and Haynes 84, were the main contributers in West Indies' 245 for eight.

Pakistan openers carried now where Haynes and Greenidge left off Mudassar and Rizwan had 56 on the board in only 53 minutes in barely 10 overs. Once Rizwan had gone it was captain Miandad who carried on Pakistan had reached their fifty a ball faster than the West Indies and Miandad and Mudassar got them to the 100 only a ball slower

Disaster was just around the corner though Marshall, who one anticipates, will have a good deal to do in the Test this summer, got Mudassar with a lovely cutter that beat the bat and tickled the stumps Two balls later he had Mansoor, too Pakistan lost some momentum. Miandad and the veteran Majid, got along sensibly, but just a touch slowly in the end, to 212 Miandad was out to a tired shot to, keeper Murray when he was 74 Majid went too And Imran: In the end the 18-run margin was comfortable for Lloyd and his men to win the game.

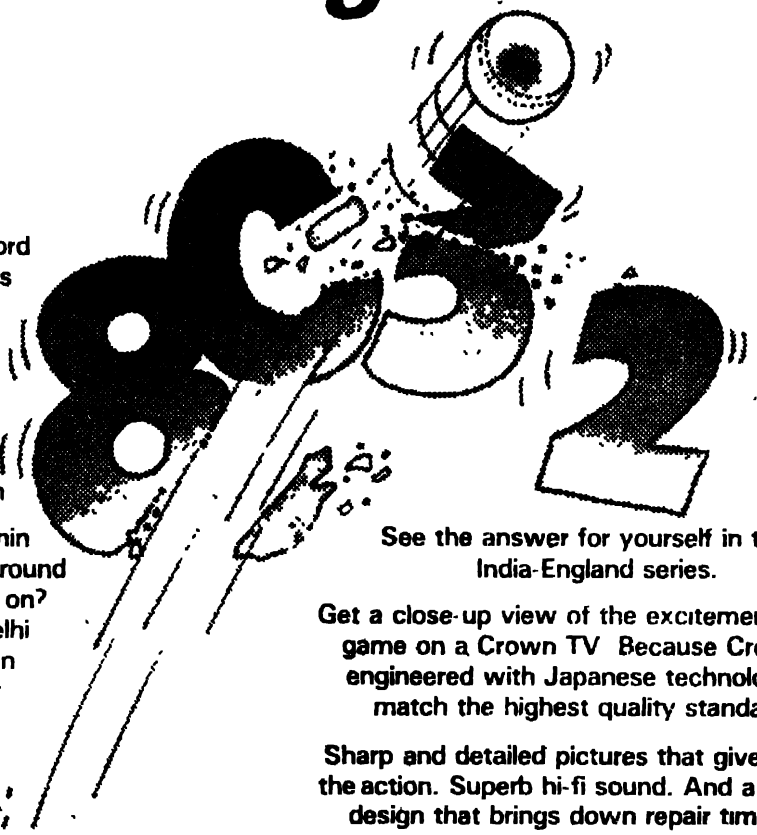
Lloyd expressed some fear that his team may have been a little short of one-day experience. He felt 'thought improvement' was likely. His worst fears were realised, a few days later, under the Sydney lights when Australia scored, what was really, an upset. That being so because Pakistan, a day after their loss to the West Indies, came out and humbled the Australians.

Australia preferred to leave out the

Vivian Richards—Causing problems for opposing bowlers and their captains Lloyd and he added 72 in only 57 minutes



Are we going to see a new world batting record?



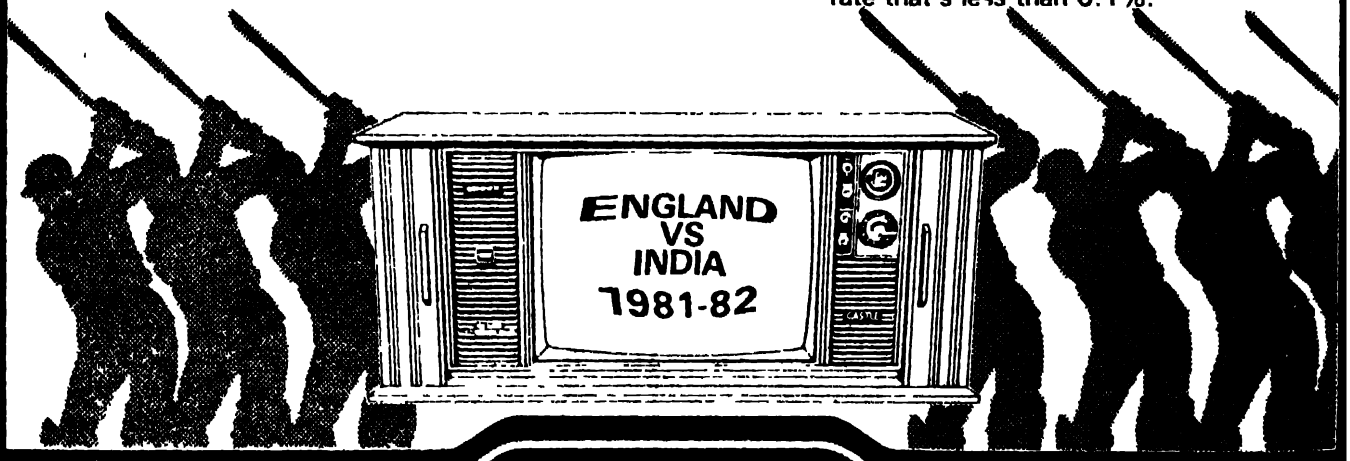
The world aggregate record for most runs in test matches is 8032 Achieved by one who has been described as a "genius". This figure was reached in 160 innings in 93 tests, the last played in April 1974 at Port of Spain

This record is now within striking distance. Which ground in India will it be achieved on? Will it be Bangalore, New Delhi or Calcutta? We may even have to wait till Madras or Kanpur!

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reliable Laird and had to bring in Darling, the young South Australian. Predictably, Wood and Darling ran some heart stopping singles, just as they had done a few seasons back against England, when observers had suggested that there must have been some throwback to Japanese Kamikaze pilots in the family trees of each

This time, Wood was run out trying for something quite ridiculous Still, the 48 they put on was bright enough to have the Pakistanis on their heels They brightened up immediately when Greg Chappell failed again, this time lobbing a slower one from Sikander to mid-off. Border missed one Marsh was bowled and Darling, too, mistead Sikander's slower one and Australia were five down for 102 and 27 overs were gone There it was, Australia lost the game despite a fightback by the deposed captain Hughes and his West Australian team-mate Yardley They put on 86 Hughes' 67 took only 80 balls But Australia's 209 never really looked enough once Miandad and Mudassar set about repairing the early damage caused by Alderman who sent back Mansoor and Zaheer with only 21 on the board

Mudassar made 44 before Chappell picked him up when the total was 126 Miandad made 72 before he was again out to a tired shot He suffered cramps during the innings. Maybe, it is a lot tougher out on Australia's baked hard grounds than it was in England when he did so well last season. Imran saw the Pakistanis through and was unbeaten on 28 when they got home off the fourth last ball But they had four wickets in hand, so the win was really quite easy. Greg Chappell was best with the ball, three for 33

Australia toiled without Lillee, under suspension for kicking Miandad in the Perth Test Nor did they have him for the tilt with the West Indies in Sydney. In his place was Shaun Graf, the Victorian all-rounder who is persisted with by the selectors despite his obvious lack of ability Graf bowled nine overs for 56 in Sydney, where the West Indies batted first This was a much steadier West Indies performance The openers against did well, Greenidge and Haynes adding 64. And Richards looked good in his 47, but it was skipper Lloyd who held the stage A timely innings of 63. Haynes and Greenidge had been subdued, scoring only 17 off the first 10 overs, even though the boundaries were roped at 75 yards because of the light problem. They brightened up, smashing twelve off Thomson's first over, enough to make Chappell send him packing to the outfield and when he came back he did so with success

He busted the openers and picked up Bacchus as well, all in the space of 21 balls Then Lloyd and Richards raced on to 72 in only 57 minutes Richards' 47 took 59 balls and Lloyd's 63, off the same number with seven fours. At only nine short of their Melbourne total against Pakistan, the West Indies run target looked too formidable for Australia. Especially when they lost Darling and Chappell—another failure—with only eight on the board. Then came the surprise and courageous fightback led by the determined Bruce Laird. He batted through for an unbeaten 117, his first century in internationals. And the Australians got home with two overs to spare and seven wickets in hand Laird, with a reputation built on rock-like defence, made his runs off only 159 balls.

The crowd chanted his name, the honour they like to reserve for Lillee. When the winning hit was made, Laird and Hughes had put on 147 in only 112 minutes, against an attack as strong as Croft, Garner, Marshall, Holding and Roberts

There were two important sidelights to this win Firstly, when Laird reached his century the SCG was again invaded by fans. This time, besides thumping Laird all over they stole a stump and tried to damage the pitch. This, despite a record turnout by the police It will not be long before barbed wire is set up. Secondly, the Australians were unable to bowl their 50 overs in the allotted time. Each team member was fined $(A) 50. What a pity they can't do that in the Tests where Pakistan have made a mockery of the whole game with less than 80 balls an hour.

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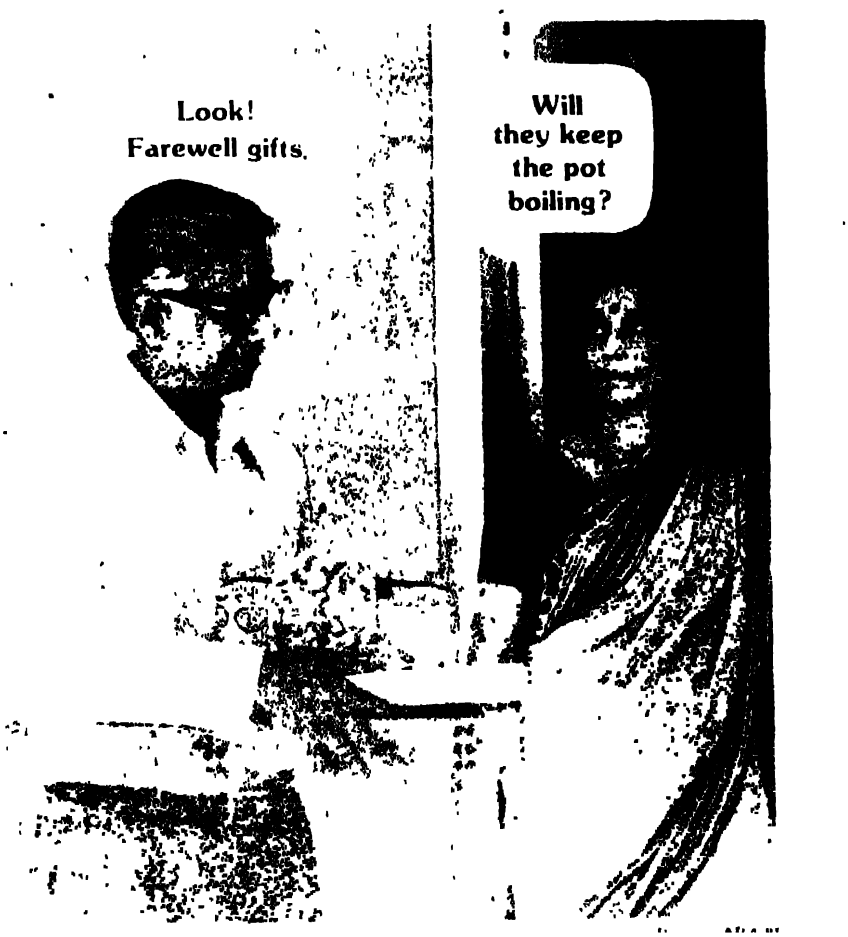
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BANGALORE TEST

We are improving

KEITH FLETCHER

I HAD a look at the wicket the day before the Test began and it was damp at that time Even on the morning of the match when I inspected the track it was still that little bit damp But all in all I thought that the toss would play an important role in this match. And when I did win the toss I was glad Thank goodness for that This was just the second time that I won the toss. The first time I won it was during the one-day international at Ahmedabad

Bob Willis was down with a stomach ailment He was a bit ill and couldn't play The other change we made was Mike Gatting for John Emburey. It was really a tactical change, because we decided to field four bowlers in this Test rather than five The reason for having five in Bombay was that the heat was too much for four bowlers to keep going throughout the day In Bangalore the temperatures were more favourable

I know I had said that to win a Test you must have the bowlers, but this time there was a slight change in our tactics. But this was not a set pattern, we might still play five bowlers in the forthcoming Tests Nor was it a defensive move We did not have enough runs in Bombay To win you first have to have runs in the kitty Rather than a defensive move, it was a holding process

The choice was between John Lever and Paul Allott to replace Willis But we decided to bank on the experience of Lever in India He has got enough wickets over here Also, it would add a new dimension to our attack He is a left-arm bowler with a special angle of attack It would give our bowling a bit of variety So, we opted for Lever

When we batted the ball made dents on the wicket This was why the ball was swinging a bit and keeping low Boycott and Gooch batted right through lunch Of course, there was some movement off the wicket Kapil and Madan bowled well, but, to be honest, Boycott and Gooch are Test-class openers

In the afternoon when Geoffrey got out to a superb ball from Kapil Dev, it was disappointing for us Gooch lost a little bit of concentration and that cost him his wicket He pulled a ball from Shastri to give the mid-wicket fielder a catch when he seemed set for a big score I would have liked him to get a big hundred, but that was not to be

David Gower came in next and he played very well Along with Tavare, who was keeping one end going, Gower was getting the runs at the other end. Things were working according to our plan. Of course, I was disappointed that in the last quarter of an hour we lost two wickets. But the poor light at the stage of the day made it very difficult to play, particularly from the Pavilion End. Even when I went in, there were some really difficult balls that I had to face. Just before the shadows reached the wicket, it was a very difficult time to bat. But I must admit that I was pleased with the first day. Of course, I would have liked it more had we got 30 more runs. That would have been much better. But then, you must remember we were 180 for four wickets The last one was of Lever. So, as far as we were concerned, we lost three main batsmen.

ON the second day David Gower and myself had to face the new ball which had been taken towards the closing stages of the first day. It was very important from our point of view that Gower and myself saw off the new ball. But the Indian bowlers bowled well. There was still movement off the seam. Both David and myself played pretty well. Unfortunately, Gower got a very good ball from Shastri which turned and trapped him. Shastri had come in immediately after the new ball was taken. It was pitched outside Gower's off stump. And out went Gower. It was a good ball. No matter how well you have played till then, if it's a good ball you are out.

Just before lunch I was out It was a blow, as far as I was concerned, to the side. Also, I would have liked to get a few runs at that time It was too crucial a phase in which to lose a wicket. Mike Gatting was ill that morning Luckily, he had recovered by then He batted confidently in partnership with Botham and added 48 runs. If we had lost one more wicket before lunch, it would have undone all the good work done on the first day. We could have been bowled out for 275 and obviously we wanted to get a lot more than that



Dilley

Scorecard

SECOND TEST (INDIA vs ENGLAND)

Played at the KSCA Stadium, Bangalore, December 9, 10, 12, 13, 14

Umpires—M. V. Gothaskar and P. R. Punjabi

Captains—S. M. Gavaskar and Keith Fletcher

Toss won by England, England batted first

(India's 191st Test, England's 574th Test, 50th between India and England, 6th at the KSCA Stadium and 19th on Indian soil)

ENGLAND (1st Innings)

G A Gooch c Gavaskar b Shastri	59
(161 min, 115 balls, 7 × 4 In trying to pull a short-pitched delivery from outside the off stump gave a simple catch at mid-wicket)	
G Boycott c Gavaskar b Shastri	36
(132 min, 101 balls 4 × 4. The ball moved away late outside the off stump and the batsman edged a low catch to second slip)	
C Tavare lbw b Madan Lal	22
(177 min, 139 balls, 2 × 4 The ball came in sharply and kept low after pitching and beat the batsman on the forward defensive stroke)	
D J Gower lbw b Shastri	82
(243 min, 178 balls, 12 × 4 Batsman played half cock to a delivery that turned and came in and the ball hit his pads to be adjudged leg before)	
J K Lever lbw b Kapil	1
(5 min 7 balls Perfectly pitched inswinger beat the batsman after he had shuffled a bit to be plumb leg before)	
K Fletcher c Kirmani b Shastri	25
(115 min, 72 balls, 2 × 4 In trying to sweep gave a catch to the keeper on the leg side)	
I Botham c Madan Lal b Doshi	55
(136 min, 96 balls 1 × 6 8 × 4 Batsman lifted the ball to deep mid-off where the fielder dived to his right to take a superb catch)	
M Gatting lbw b Kapil	29
(50 min 53 balls 6 × 4 Batsman shuffled across but was beaten by a ball that came sharply to trap him leg before)	
G R Dilley c Gavaskar b Shastri	52
(169 min 123 balls 5 × 4 Batsman hoisted the ball to long off where Gavaskar running in judged a good catch)	
R Taylor c Kapil b Doshi	33
(103 min 71 balls 4 × 4 In trying to hit the ball in the stands the batsman was unsuccessful and was caught on the long-on fence)	
D Underwood not out	2
(6 min 4 balls)	
Extras (lb-2 nb 3)	5
TOTAL	400

FALL OF WICKETS

1/88 (Boycott Gooch n o 51) 2/96 (Gooch Tavare n o 1) 3/180 (Tavare, Gower n o 62) 4/181 (Lever Gower n o 62) 5/223 (Gower, Fletcher n o 21) 6/230 (Fletcher Botham n o 3) 7/288 (Gatting, Botham n o 20), 8/324 (Botham Dilley n o 11) 9/393 (Taylor, Dilley n o 47)

Bowling

Kapil	40-3 136-3
Madan Lal	24 7-46-1
Doshi	39 15-83-2
Azad	12 1-47-0
Shastri	43-14-83-4

PATTERN OF SCORING

FIRST DAY

First hour 37 runs 14 overs total 37 0 second hour 47 runs 15 overs total 84/0 third hour 19 runs 16 overs total 103 2 fourth hour 27 runs 14 overs total 130/2 fifth hour 47 runs 19 overs total 177 2 Last 25 minutes 4 runs 33 overs total 181 4

SECOND DAY

First hour 34 runs 12 3 overs total 215 4 second hour 24 runs 13 overs total 239/5 third hour 52 runs 17 overs total 291 7 fourth hour 41 runs 13 overs total 332/8 fifth hour 43 runs 14 overs total 375/8 last half hour 25 runs 7 overs total 400

50 runs off 19.3 overs in 86 min 100 runs off 44 1 overs in 180 min, 150 runs off 65.2 overs in 261 min 200 runs off 88 4 overs in 366 min 250 runs off 110 overs in 452 min, 300 runs off 126 2 overs in 519 min, 350 runs off 145 4 overs in 600 min 400 runs off 157.5 overs in 662 min

INDIA (1st Innings)

S M Gavaskar c and b Underwood	172
(708 min 476 balls 21×4 (The batsman was deceived by a slower ball and did not get to the pitch of the ball and gave a return catch)	
K Srikkanth c Gooch b Botham	66
(140 min , 87 balls, 8×4 The batsman tried to work the ball down to the point region, but off the edge the ball flew to the left of second slip for a low catch)	
D Vengsarkar c Taylor b Lever	43
(200 min , 139 balls 3×4 The batsman did not put his bat in line with the ball that came in and the wicketkeeper dived to his right to pick up the catch)	
G Vishwanath lbw Lever	9
(21 min , 12 balls The batsman was beaten by an inswinger while moving back and across to be rapped on the pads for a plumb leg before)	
R Shastri lbw Lever	1
(17 min 13 balls The batsman was hit on the left pad while playing forward defensive to a ball that straightened up after swinging in Having failed to have made contact he was adjudged leg before)	
Sandeep Patil lbw Lever	17
(33 min , 21 balls, 3 × 4 The batsman tried to turn an inswinger to square leg missed the ball and was hit on the left pad)	
Kirti Azad c Fletcher b Underwood	24
(86 min , 57 balls 3×4 The batsman played defensive forward but failed to keep the ball down and gave a catch to silly mid off)	
Kapil Dev c Taylor b Lever	59
(96 min 59 balls 1×6 10×4 Slashing at a ball leaving him outside the offstump the batsman gave a simple catch to the wicketkeeper	
S M H. Kirmani lbw Botham	6
(73 min , 31 balls The batsman missed the line of an inswinger)	
Madan Lal not out	7
(33 min , 18 balls, 1×4)	
Dilip Doshi c Boycott b Underwood	0
(4 min 4 balls The batsman attempted to lift the bowler over the top but was caught at mid on)Extras	
(b—2 lb—14, nb—9, w—3)	28
TOTAL	428

717 min 150 overs

Fall of wickets

1/102 (Srikkanth Gavaskar n o 31), 2/195 (Vengsarkar, Gavaskar n o 78), 3/208 (Vishwanath Gavaskar n o 84) 4/214 (Shastri, Gavaskar n o 89) 5/242 (Patil, Gavaskar n o 99) 6/284 (Kirti Azad, Gavaskar n o 116) 7/376 (Kapil Gavaskar n o 143), 8/412 (Kirmani Gavaskar n o 163) 9/428 (Gavaskar Madan Lal n o 7)

Bowling

Botham	47-9-137-2
Dilley	24-4 75-0
Lever	36-9-100-5
Underwood	43-21-88-3

PATTERN OF SCORING

50 runs 77 min 16 4 overs 100 runs 135 min 29 2 overs, 150 runs 241 min 53 1 overs, 189 runs 323 min 71 2 overs, 200 runs 348 min 76 4 overs, 250 runs 434 min 92 3 overs 300 runs 519 min 110 3 overs, 350 runs 570 min 121 3 overs, 400 runs 639 min 134 4 overs, 428 runs 717 min 150 overs,

Landmarks

Taylor took his hundredth catch during India s first innings and Gavaskar scored the highest by anyone in an India—England Test match at Bangalore in a single innings when he made 172 Details of his innings are

50 in 212 min , 140 balls, 6 × 4
100 in 429 min., 280 balls, 12 × 4
150 in 618 min , 402 balls, 18 × 4

ENGLAND (2nd innings)

G. A. Gooch lbw Kapil	40
(82 min, 60 balls, 7×4. Batsman went slightly forward but was beaten by an inswinger and was declared leg before)	
G. Boycott b Doshi	50
(222 min, 165 balls, 5×4. The ball turned sharply to hit the off stump)	
C. Tavare c Patil b Shastri	31
(85 min, 71 balls, 5×4. Batsman tried to hit to mid wicket, mistimed the shot and gave a catch to extra cover)	
D. I. Gower not out	32
(101 min, 87 balls, 5×4)	
K. W. R. Fletcher not out	12
(32 min, 32 balls, 3×4)	
Extras (lb—6, nb—1)	7
TOTAL	174 for 3 wkt decl.
(255 min., 69 overs)	

Fall of wickets

1/69 (Gooch, Boycott n.o. 14) 2/105 (Tavare, Boycott n.o. 27) 3/152 (Boycott, Gower n.o. 2)

BOWLING

Kapil	12-2-49-1
Doshi	21-6-37-1
Amar	12-3-36-0
Madan Lal	4-2-14-0
Shastri	20-7-31-1

PATTERN OF SCORING

50 runs in 47 min off 10.4 overs, 100 runs in 147 min off 37.4 overs, 150 runs in 219 min off 57.4 overs.

Match drawn



Kirmani fails to catch Gower off Kapil

But Gatting and Botham played well. In fact, Gatting received a good ball which kept low and he was out leg before. From then on Graham Dilley joined Botham. Ian, I think, played very sensibly. He didn't go out there and smash the ball around the park. He just went out there and batted. It was rather sad the way Botham got out. But it's no good having a go at Ian for getting out the way he did because this is exactly the way Ian plays. Until then he had done a superb job for England and he really got his head down and tried. I was very pleased with him.

Till now the Indians had been in the field for nine hours and you can imagine how they were getting tired. We knew they were getting tired, which was a way of doing our job. All the work the earlier batsmen had done saw fruit when Bob Taylor and Graham Dilley put on 69 runs, which was good because we had worked hard in the day for them. We had set our minds to getting 400 runs if we could. And the ninth wicket partnership got us what we needed.

I was pleased with the way we batted. I would have been delighted if someone had got a big hundred That way we would have scored our runs quickly

I did not declare and put India in for half an hour because the Indian bowlers were very tired by that stage and we were picking up runs. I believe in gathering runs in the first innings, if we can manage to get them. That 400 might prove very important towards the end of the match.

The other reason was that I believed we would lose 10 to 15 minutes, because of the shadows which would have arrived on the wicket, as it did on the first day, to cause an early closure.

THE wicket on the third day, which was actually the fourth day—the third day being the rest day—did not seam at all. On the first two days Kapil and Madan made the ball seam. I must admit that on the rest day I was quite hopeful that we might be able to make some inroads into the Indian batting. But as it turned out the wicket was absolutely flat. We were a little bit unfortunate, nothing to do with any fault of anyone but there is a lot of luck with what sort of ball you get. We were a bit unlucky that the ball we had on the third day was a little soft. It went out of shape pretty quick. Unlike the ball we had on the fourth day which was a super ball. Even at the end of the fourth day this ball was still in good shape after some 60 overs. It is just the luck of the draw. We ourselves chose the ball on the third day. No one is responsible for it. How does one ever know if the ball is going to become soft after some overs have been bowled with it? It was just our bad luck.

Graham Dilley bowled very well in his first spell. We were a little bit unfortunate that Botham was not so accurate as he normally is. But this is mainly because Ian has been ill for the last week or so during this Test because of which he could not practise. He has bronchitis and chest complaints He was a little bit rusty, let's put it that way He did not bowl like the Botham we know. In fact, this gave India more opportunities to score than I would have liked

Srikkanth played well. He got India going in fact. It is a superb wicket. If he is not going to play well on this wicket then I'm afraid he's never going to play well on anything. Gavaskar settled into his role of the anchorman. This is what he set out to do and this is what he did. He just batted, batted, batted as well as he possibly can.

I think Derek Underwood bowled well in the afternoon. He bowled, if I remember, 20 overs for just 20 odd runs. He was a bit unlucky not to pick up one or two wickets. If things were going our way, he should have had Gavaskar and Vengsarkar. In fact, Vengsarkar was a bit jittery to start with against Underwood. But the Indians, I still give them credit, they got stuck in and did their job in the interests of their team. They played well. They did not score their runs any quicker than we did. Both of us were jockeying positions for the last two days.

On the fourth day the weather was a bit overcast and a bit humid and had a distinct influence on the game. John Lever and Botham bowled superbly on the fourth morning and swung the ball a lot. The atmospheric conditions were assisting to swing the ball more. I know it would swing because of which I gave the ball to John Lever from the Top End just to see how much the ball would swing. That's why I had Lever on rather than Dilley because Lever swings the ball well. My intuition proved right because John bowled very well. Today Botham was very unlucky. The only one unlucky. Unlike yesterday when he didn't bowl well, today he was much better. The one thing is that Lever got his rewards, while Botham did not.

The reason I had Botham operating from the Pavilion End and Lever from the other was because the wind was blowing from third man when John was bowling from the Top End. This

wind helped both the bowlers. Lever bowls left arm inswing and Botham bowls outswingers usually. The wind was thus helping the ball to deviate that little bit more.

Once again Derek Underwood bowled fairly well. Also, we had a few problems with Graham Dilley. He's had a badly bruised heel which, in fact, allowed me to bowl him for just 12 overs on the third day. I couldn't risk aggravating this injury to Graham because I had just four bowlers in this Test. This bruised heel has been caused because of the feet beating down on the hard grounds that one finds in India. We have taken note of this and from now on Graham shall use heel pads. Now and then, all fast bowlers suffer from this kind of ailment.

BUT on the fourth day, I'm afraid, he just had to bowl because Lever and Botham had bowled for nearly two and a half hours each. I had no alternative and had to use him Dilley had to put in some work. But what pleased me was that Graham bowled well Our cause was well served by John Lever who picked up some early wickets in the morning session But Gavaskar survived and played well He obviously had a bit of luck. Everybody and anybody needs some luck when he is batting. He battled away and didn't mind if he was beaten outside the off stump. He just carried on playing

India got a real bonus when Kapil Dev came in the late afternoon He actually played well He put bat for ball and as long as he was there it looked like India could have had a lead of 40 runs on the fourth day itself This would not have been good for us Luckily we managed to get him out, thanks to Lever Kapil was going well and his dismissal was a stroke of fortune for us. Because by that time we were really tired and he was going great guns He could easily have taken 50 or 60 runs without any effort That is how well he was playing.

Regarding my dismissal on the second afternoon when I tapped the wicket after being given out, it is a closed chapter now It was done in the heat of the moment It is all over and done with It is not the done thing to show dissent and this was the reason why I apologised to the Indian Board.

THIS morning I was very pleased that we got India out for just another 20 runs. To be honest I was a little bit disturbed when Kapil Dev was batting on the fourth day and thought that India might get a lead of 120 or 130 and make it quite difficult for us on the last afternoon But luckily we got him out.

On the fifth morning we were fortunate to get Kirmani out No doubt those runs were not easily had on the final day. I'm not disappointed with the way we played this match. I think that had the wicket stayed on the last two days like it was on the first two days then we would have stood a very good chance of winning this match. Because on the first two days it seamed around quite a bit. The rest day, coming after two days, helped India to some extent

Gavaskar played very well for his side. I'm pleased he did not dominate any more. Had he gone for his strokes a little bit earlier, India could have put us under a lot of pressure. I'm pleased that he had virtually settled for a draw once they got to 400. I was concerned when, at one stage, India were 195 for one on the third day. If Gavaskar had gone for his shots on the fourth day I could see for myself that the fifth day was going to be very difficult for us. But thankfully, they did not and they played into our hands a little bit.

We played better in the second Test than we did in the first. We are getting used to Indian conditions so that by the time the fourth, fifth and sixth Tests come along we shall get better and better. I'm pleased with the boys.

Bob Willis has virtually recovered now and will play in Delhi. Everybody is fit and raring to go I think I shall have a rest from the game against North Zone and this is something new for me. John Lever bowled very well in this Test. We'll have a look at the wicket in the Delhi Test and see if it has any bounce and then decide whether or not we'll play John or whether Dilley will be more suited. But this can only be worked out on the morning of the match. Eventually we will be selecting the side for the Test only on that day itself.

On the fourth morning when the ball actually swung we had India in all sorts of problems. Our strength lies in our seamers. John Lever swung the ball effectively and Botham bowled superbly. In fact, Ian was a little unlucky. We could have bowled India out under two hours under those conditions when the ball was moving. So I think India's got one or two problems to think about. We had a few things to think about after the Bombay Test. It's like I said, we're just improving

In Delhi usually the wicket helps the seamers. So we are going into it with a lot more confidence In fact, a lot more than we came into this Test with. This Test match has been a confidence booster for us.

Gavaskar hooks Botham (not in pic)



We were superior

SUNIL GAVASKAR

1st day



IT would have been a good toss to win as the wicket looked full of runs There wasn't much that was happening on the wicket There was a bit of bounce when Kapil was bowling from the Pavilion End. Earlier even when Madan Lal was bowling from the same end the bounce was there all right

Kapil bowled extremely well He beat Graham Gooch and Boycott outside the off stump But I hope this does not lead people to think that these batsmen are weak outside the off stump, because playing and missing outside that area is something which every batsman does. Unfortunately, we seem to jump to conclusions that as soon as one plays and misses outside the off stump or is caught behind that he is weak in that region There are so many ways in which the batsmen can get out. And one of them is to be caught by the wicketkeeper or in the slips This does not indicate any weakness on the part of the batsmen

Gooch looked in better touch than he has been so far on the tour Obviously, the hundred he got in the match at Hyderabad against South Zone has given him a world of confidence He played cautiously but without missing out on the balls to score runs off Boycott as usual was the grafter

He scored in ones and twos and when the odd bad ball came along he hit it to the boundary He played exactly that type of a game and at lunch England were 84 without loss That was a good start Gooch was one short of his half century and Boycott was not very many behind

At lunch time Kapil came up to me and said that in all the Test matches that he had played for India there had never been a century opening partnership registered against us and he intended to see that this record wasn't broken, at least in this Test He was as good as his word because the first over he bowled after lunch was against the wind and then I switched him over to the Pavilion End which was the direction from where the wind was blowing and he immediately had Boycott snicking into the slips It was a beautiful delivery pitched on the off and middle stump and left Boycott a little bit and the batsman was good enough to get an edge Nine out of ten batsmen would not have survived that delivery Full credit to Kapil for it He bowled well after that, with a renewed heart and unchanged for an hour and was troubling both Tavare and Gooch By now Gooch had got his 50.

Ravi Shastri came on at the other end and he got Gooch out to a short-pitched delivery which the batsman pulled straight to midwicket. It wasn't a ball that deserved a wicket but this is what the game is all about You can bowl a good delivery without getting a wicket and then yet bowl a delivery which is not too good and still end up getting one

Tavare was then joined by Gower Our bowlers did extremely well to contain them and England managed just 50 runs in the two-hour session after lunch Gower was careful and obviously, since he did not have a successful Test at Bombay and was keen to get a big score Tavare, as usual, just his front foot down the wicket and if the ball came in it hit his pad which was the line of defence.



Ravi Shastri in action

Gower, meanwhile, after tea started playing some wonderful shots particularly off Doshi He played a few elegant cover drives off Madan and he was onto his fifty—it was a good innings and it was the kind of knock England expected from him

With half an hour to go before the end of the day's play I took the new ball because I knew that there were not going to be too many overs bowled as the shadows from one of the stands dropped right upon the middle of the wicket We would not be able to get more than four overs with the new ball and this was what I wanted because Kapil had bowled a long spell earlier and was a bit stiff. This way we could have the new ball the next day and Kapil would be fresh too.

Madan obliged with a wicket in his very first over when he got Chris Tavare leg-before with a ball that nipped back and kept low and in the following over Kapil got rid of night-watchman Lever, leg-before One ball later, Fletcher was almost out in the same way when going off the back foot.

All in all, I think it was a good outing for India after having lost the toss and especially after the opening partnership between Boycott and Gooch The fielding was tight The bowling in the beginning was containing in nature than off an attacking one But on a wicket like this we realised we could not attack too much because then we would be giving away too many runs With four wickets down and the new man Fletcher in and Kapil and Madan fresh we hoped to finish the English innings next morning as quickly as possible

2nd day



WE had the new ball in our hands and the new batsman was Keith Fletcher. But Kapil tried too hard, I think, and thus bowled just a little outside the off stump without making the batsmen play as much as he should have At the other end Madan moved the ball appreciably and made Gower play and miss a few times outside the off stump But that's the luck of the game We all, and of course Madan himself felt disappointed that he hadn't got a wicket.

After almost an hour of bowling with the new ball, just before the drinks interval, I brought Shastri in. Ravi responded quickly by getting Gower leg before with a ball that turned in. The batsman was neither forward nor back and there was no doubt about


DAVID GOMER



Gatting tbw off Kapil Dev

that dismissal Earlier on also in the previous over a ball from Shastri had turned, but that time Gower was lucky to have got his bat down in the nick of time and it hit him on the pad But this time the turn beat Gower completely

Fletcher was out after that, when he tried to sweep Shastri and from the inside edge of his bat wicketkeeper Kirmani took a brilliant catch Keith didn't seem happy with the decision, but then our side of the story was that Fletcher was out There are always two sides of a story and obviously both sides have different versions

Thereafter, it was Gatting and Botham and they played very well Gatting cut and pulled well Ian as usual was always looking for runs, though he was more restrained than he is normally Kapil was brought back again after lunch He struck in his very first over by getting Gatting leg before with a ball that came in

Dilley joined Botham and both of them were playing very well Botham, in fact, was now opening his shoulders and giving the ball mighty whacks as he likes to One over from Shastri proved pretty expensive when Botham flicked him into the stands over the mid wicket and followed it up by driving the next one for four Botham is such a strong man that even if he inside edges a ball, as he did to Shastri on a couple of occasions, the ball goes straight to the mid wicket boundary.

Botham was out finally to a brilliant catch taken by Madan Lal off Doshi In fact, it was the first ball of Doshi, who replaced Shastri, that got Botham, and Madan dived forward to his right to take the ball only inches above the ground It was a really great catch because I know how difficult it is to sight the ball and distinguish it from the crowds especially in Bangalore and Calcutta These are the two places where if you stand away from the sightscreen, it is very difficult to follow the flight of the ball Many a catch is missed because the fielder is a bit too slow to judge the position of the ball as it gets lost against the background. Madan also picked up the flight late, but made up for it by diving forward and coming up with a superlative catch Botham at this stage, was looking dangerous He was just past his 50 and obviously wanted to smack the bowling around

Graham Dilley was fortunate enough not to be given out, off Dilip Doshi—the first thing poor Vengsarkar touched in the whole match and held on to and Dilley made the most of it along with Taylor by adding valuable runs to his team's score.

I was surprised that Fletcher didn't

Boycott c Gavaskar b Shastri



declare at that stage because it would have given him 20 minutes to have a crack at us. He had 370 odd runs in the bag and only 30 more runs were added till the end of the days play by his batsmen. And, had I been in his position I would have gone in for a bid to grab one or two wickets at the expense of those 30 runs. But then, I suppose time will tell if Fletcher was right or not.

With a score of 400 to chase, it is going to be an uphill task, though, of course, we have the batting to do it The wicket is not doing anything. The odd ball is turning but not appreciably. There are very few alarms in the wicket. Fortunately for us, tomorrow is a rest day So, after having fielded for two days we can recharge our batteries.

3rd day



JUST one wicket down at the end of the day's play is a tremendous achievement considering our batting failures in the first Test at Bombay. All the batsmen in our side are determined to make the best of this flat wicket at Bangalore and try and get as many runs as possible England has shown by scoring 400 runs in the first innings that there is very little in the wicket and I am sure our batsmen will not miss this opportunity

Srikkanth started very well and he has got a good eye and he played his shots without any pressure on himself Obviously there was pressure on him after he had not done particularly well in the last few matches he had played against the tourists. But the way he played his shots was a delight to watch at the other end and by getting into his stride straightaway and hitting the England opening bowlers he took away the initiative from them, and straightaway we were running away to a good start

With a batsman like this there is always this danger that he might get a bit adventurous and that is what I kept cautioning him about But I never asked him to curb his shots You cannot tell a player like him to curb his shots, all you can go down and advise him is to keep concentrating and that is it I think at one stage the crowd thought that I was telling him to restrain himself but that was not the case. I just went up and told him that he was doing a great job and he should keep going. And that is what he did Only after lunch did he play a poor looking shot outside the off stump to Botham and was caught in the second slip If he had stuck around longer I am sure the crowd would have had a more exciting day What an entertaining innings it was for the crowd. He kept them on their feet all the time. Srikkanth played shots all around the wicket and I think, the shot that stood out was the flat hook he played towards the square leg umpire off Botham for four. He played a couple of uppish hooks and the captain of the English team had two fielders, one on

the deep square leg boundary and the other on the deep fine leg boundary but Srikkanth, thereafter, did not hook and that is the hallmark of somebody learning and maturing fast.

Dilip Vengsarkar came in and found himself being confronted by Underwood bowling at his tightest and not giving away anything at all. Earlier on, when Underwood was fresher he was bowling really well. He managed to turn the odd ball. I think that just three or four balls really turned from him in the entire day but he just kept on pegging it on the leg and Dilip surrounded by two fielders in front on the off side was a little constrained in his shot making. The crowd was not impressed and they made their feelings very clear. But one must understand we were chasing 400 runs and it would have been foolish if a couple of wickets had fallen in trying to force and pace because it would have undone the work of the opening batsmen. We all know that after having to chase a target of 400 a result in our favour is going to be very difficult, although nothing is impossible in cricket and the obvious thing was to stay at the wicket as long as possible and try to get as many runs

Dilip opened out after tea He played some good shots A cover drive off Underwood for four was very nicely timed and also shots through the covers off Lever and Botham each. He had got over the uncertain period of the afternoon when he had come into bat.

As far as I am concerned I have not had a lengthy innings in Test cricket for a long time. I was pleased with my effort even though I have not got too many runs but then the over-rate has not been exactly electrifying either It has been a very slow over-rate with the bowlers tending to hurl the ball outside the off stump and we are now prepared to play the waiting game having to chase a big total and are not fishing outside the off stump. As a whole, I thought it was a good day for us losing only one wicket and keeping England on the field the whole day and probably we would like to do that tomorrow again so as to get a psychological advantage over them, being already one up in the series.

The wicket looked good The bounce has more or less gone but so far there is no turn, though Underwood managed to turn three deliveries in the long spell he bowled. I know the crowd did not get any excitement except in the pre-lunch session when Srikkanth was at the crease. But this is a Test match and we are playing against professional England bowlers and I know that their game is if they cannot get wickets they will keep it tight and try and see if we lose our patience and get us out that way. There are still five more Tests to go and obviously we would not like to throw away the good work our bowlers have done in the first Test. I hope the crowd understands that the batsmen do not want to undo what the bowlers achieved for us.

4th day



TODAY again was a day when the bowlers had to toil for their wickets. There wasn't much in the wicket and England's only hope of breaking through our batting was the new ball. Lever did just that after getting the new ball. He got rid of Vengsarkar with the second delivery. Dilip played inside to the line to a ball which left him and Taylor took the catch behind the wicket. Dilip was looking good and was hoping for a big score. I too wanted him to be there to negotiate the new ball since he is also an opening batsman.

This way, both Dilip and I being opening batsmen, could deal with the new ball so that the stroke-players in the side like Sandeep Patil, Kirti Azad, and Kapil Dev could play their shots Unfortunately, that was not to be. After Dilip fell, Shastri was promoted in the order because he is a batsman who plays straight and down the line. Also, I felt Sandeep would be better off if he came down the order after the ball had become a little old. In Australia and New Zealand, Sandeep had got runs for India at number six so I felt that I must revert him to his original number Even he was happy to play at that number.

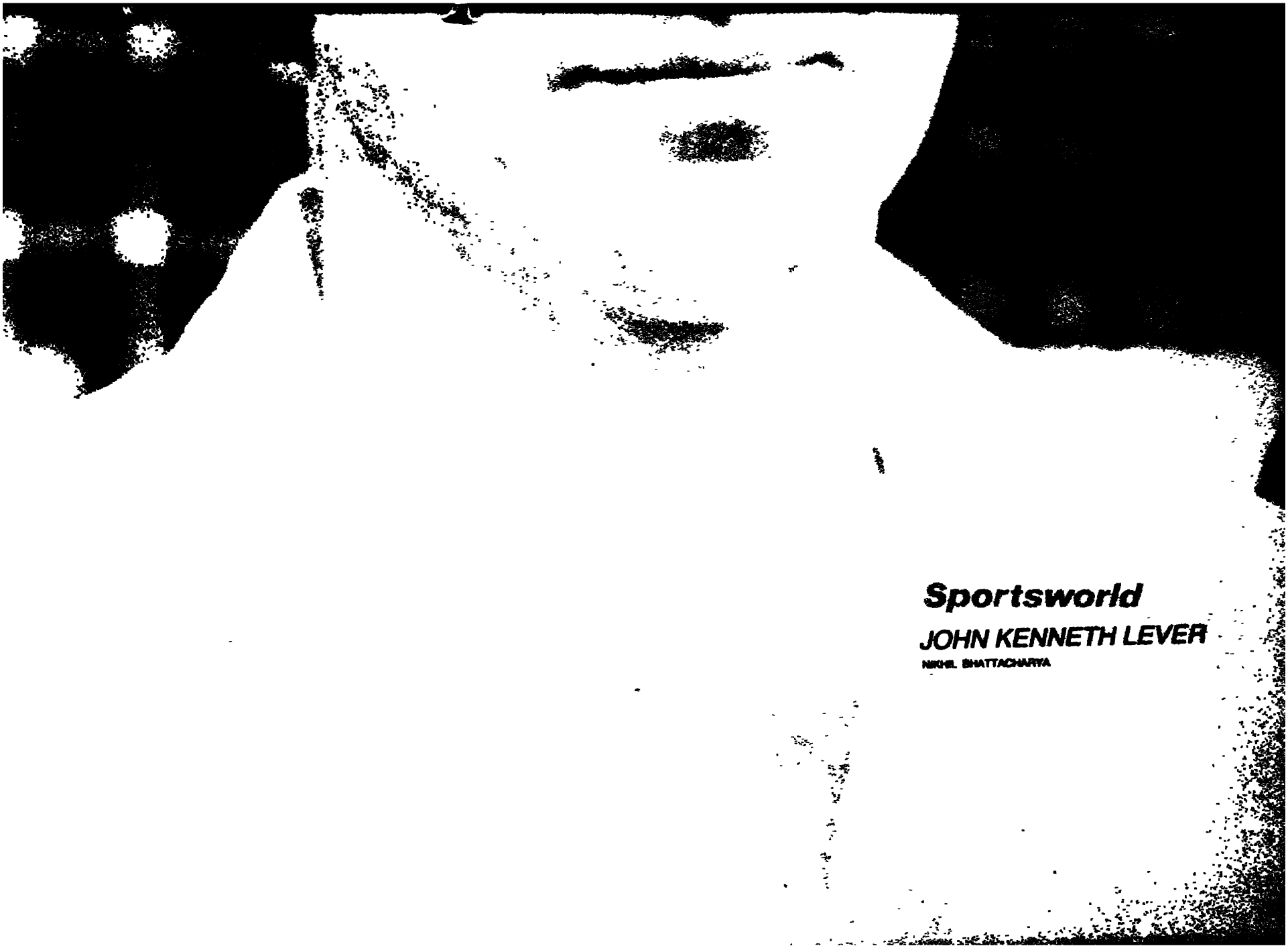
Unfortunately, Shastri got out to Lever, a decision for which perhaps the benefit of the doubt could have been given to the batsman. But the umpire is the best judge. Sandeep had to come in while the ball was fairly new. Patil started off well on driving Lever for four runs. He went on to play some good shots to Botham. But one got the impression that Sandeep is not as fluent as he would like to be. Sandeep was also a victim to a decision for which the benefit of the doubt should have gone to the batsman. Standing at the non-striking end, I got the impression that the ball was pitched outside the leg-stump before it straightened up. In any case, Sandeep should realise that until he is 50 or 60 he should play straight down the line instead of trying to flick to mid-wicket and square-leg and today he paid the penalty for it

Before that Vishwanath as well fell to Lever leg before He went back and the ball rapped him on the pad and there was no question about this decision Vishy was plump and he should have played forward because there wasn't much bounce on the wicket but Vishy is basically a back foot player and it is unfortunate that he got a good delivery so early in his innings The Bangalore crowd was disappointed because he is their local hero and did not get runs But this was compensated by Kapil Dev.

Srikkanth hooks Dilley






Sportsworld
JOHN KENNETH LEVER
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

Sidelights

MIKE BREARLEY, Sunil Gavaskar, Tony Lewis, M.L. Jaisimha, Lala Amarnath, Brijesh Patel, Ian Botham, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani and Chandrasekhar. This is not an international cricket team. I know it seems a properly balanced side and has a man for every specialist position in a cricket team. But the truth is that all these gentlemen were reporting the Bangalore Test for the media. Of course, the big question was in case the above players took the field who would lead the side. As many as five of them have captained their countries in Test cricket.

BOTH the teams were staying at the West End hotel in Bangalore. The hotel had put up a big white banner at the entrance, which said "We have got both the teams on our side of the wicket".

At either end were the flags of India and England. The Union Jack was just the way it should be. The Indian flag was minus the Ashoka Chakra in the centre

BEFORE the Bangalore Test began, Ian Botham reached the milestone of 2000 runs and 200 wickets in Tests. It took Botham 42 Test matches to reach the all-rounder's 'double double'. The exact number to Ian's credit was 211 wickets and 2013 runs at the end of the Bombay Test.

How does it feel? The strongly-built Botham replied "I have'nt given it a thought It was only when someone told me about it that I became aware of it".

That this was only the third instance of a cricketer reaching the all-rounder's 'double' in the history of the game proves the stupendous effort required to cross this milestone Gary Sobers and Richie Benaud are the other two to have achieved this feat. So Ian Botham is in good company.

Botham, who made his Test debut against the Australians, who toured England in 1977, has, on more than one occasion, proved a one-man-team. He has been single-handedly responsible for quite a few English victories The Indians should know. In the Jubilee Test at Bombay, he had 13 wickets and a century to boot as he helped England trounce India, But, of course, his individual effort in bowling was the eight wickets he snapped against Pakistan at Lord's in 1977. His highest score as a batsman is 149 not out against Australia in the last series in England. It was one of the many efforts by Botham that helped his team to win the series after losing the first Test.

But, for all his [illegible] Terrence Botham is a [illegible] When asked how he would [illegible] to be remembered after his [illegible] ment, Botham quipped "[illegible] bloke who enjoyed cricket".

TO Gundappa Vishwanath goes the credit of representing India in 73 Test matches [illegible]. This speaks volumes of Vishwanath's consistency and physical fitness. Regarding his consistency a lot of people may raise questions, but the point is that the stylish Vishy is basically an artist and is capable of playing his best when the chips are down. Whenever India has won on difficult wickets Vishwanath has invariably scored.

In Test cricket Vishwanath stands second in the matter of Test appearances without a break. He has just overtaken Ian Chappell who had 71 consecutive appearances. Only Gary Sobers with 85 is ahead of him.

When asked to comment on this, Vishwanath, the most technically correct batsman in India explained "I think my 73 consecutive appearances for the country, to be honest, has more to do with the fact that these years we are playing as many as 13 to 17 Tests in a year. Earlier on there were times when cricketers played one series in two years."

Vishwanath, who made his debut against Australia at Kanpur in the 1969-70 series and has scored over 5000 runs, says "As for my physical fitness, I don't really do anything special. Let's say I have been very lucky to be injury-free.

BUT while Vishwanath has been lucky, his team-mate Syed Kirmani has not been. The Bangalore Test was Kirmani's 50th Test for India. Said a beaming, bald-headed, Kiri "It's my golden jubilee. I am proud of it. Fortunately, I reached this figure in my hometown—Bangalore."

Kirmani, who is a picture of fitness and efficiency, would also have had a string of continuous Test appearances had it not been for the Indian selectors who unwisely dropped him from the team that toured England in 1979, supposedly over Kirmani's probability of joining Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket.

Except for the four Test matches in that series, Kirmani has played in every single Test for India since he made his debut against New Zealand at Auckland in 1976. Says he "I feel I am good enough to start a fresh innings behind the wickets."

EVERY run, catch and wicket will count in this current series as the Parle Exports Pvt. Ltd., has [illegible]

[illegible] the Test during the Bangalore Test six of the English cricketers in knee-length half pants, stockings and floppy hats set out to play golf. Their names: Ian Botham, Graham Gooch, John Lever, Geoff Cook, John Emburey and Paul Allott. The scores: Emburey and Gooch beat Botham and Cook. Lever and Allott played between themselves. But, from all accounts, one believes that the players enjoyed the golf thoroughly and it served as a good relaxation.

SUNIL GAVASKAR's marathon 172 is the sixth highest score by an Indian against England. But Gavaskar need not worry. His 221 at The Oval in 1979 is still the highest score for an Indian.

The others who are in the bracket are Pataudi (203 not out), Budhi Kunderan (192), Vijay Manjrekar (189) and Vinoo Mankad (184).

However, one thing is certain. Gavaskar's epic knock of a little under 12 hours is the longest innings played by an Indian. By being ninth out Sunil narrowly missed the distinction of being the only Indian to carry his bat through the innings. It was Sunil's 24th century in Test cricket, two short of the number scored by Gary Sobers in 93 Tests and five less than those scored by Donald Bradman in 52 Tests. Gavaskar has played 71 Tests to date.

Sunil's achievement is all the more awesome because for the entire duration of the Test match he was off the field for just four deliveries. What England batted first Gavaskar was on the field. During India's innings Gavaskar was [illegible] out and Dilip Doshi batted [illegible] four deliveries. Sunil was [illegible] the field when England batted second time till the end of the [illegible]

Commenting on his effort Sunil said, "Somehow I don't feel anything. There is no feeling of satisfaction, in spite of the fact that I have been on the field for so long." Followed a tongue in cheek remark "Actually I wanted to prove to myself that I can stay [illegible] old."

HARESH MUNWANI



Gower drives

Kirti Azad fell to Underwood, a decision which neither satisfied Kirti nor me Once again, the umpires' decision should be accepted and one shouldn't say much But, however, the careers of Test cricketers are made and destroyed by umpiring errors and obviously good umpiring should be there. One cannot escape this fact, I'm not saying that the umpiring was not good but the mistakes that they made were not helpful to the player concerned

Kapil Dev came and started playing shots straightaway He was into his stride and hooking Botham and Dilley and cutting and driving Underwood as if he was in the nets. In the middle of it all, he would come down in the middle and have a chat Like yesterday I was telling him to play his game except that he should not try to flick the ball off his legs He was free to drive or lock the ball the way he wanted Players like Kapil, Kirti, Sandeep and Srikkanth you cannot restrain. All you can do is go up there and advise them not to get carried away because I know that in a Test match situation, after you hit a four, the crowd gets excited and they start cheering. And you find your adrenalin running that much faster and you try and repeat the shot Unfortunately, the ball is not there for the stroke and you pay the penalty

Kapil was good today He chose the right ball, he was looking to score as many as possible and he did not let the crowd or himself down Though perhaps in a way he did himself a little down because he should have got his hundred But certainly he did not let the team down by his display In fact, I was very pleased to be watching him at the other end What was comforting is the way he kept on coming to me and telling me not to play aggressively like him and try and play in my normal way So we have this exchange of ideas at the wicket and I'm sure perhaps Kapil also enjoyed his batting as much as I did It was a pity he got out the way he did trying to square cut on the front foot and the ball bounced just a little bit and it took outside edge for Taylor to take a comfortable catch

Kirmani came in next and stayed with me till the end of the day While we knocked up the runs somebody said it was slow going As far as I'm concerned the over rate was slow They scored their 400 in 158 overs, we got that in much less. One should have a good hard look at the over rate. Maybe it's time for the International Cricket Conference to set up some sort of penalty for all these things because it's now getting to a stage where more of the countries, when they find things are not going their way, they slow down the pace of the game by bowling lesser number of overs. So the lesser number of balls bowled, the lesser number of runs that are scored in a day's play

I had the unusual and unfortunate experience of being garlanded and mobbed on 99 by the over enthusiastic spectators and it upset my rhythm for quite some time because after that I found it quite difficult and had to struggle for that one vital run which got me my first hundred in Bangalore I appreciate the fans' desire to garland somebody who had done well but obviously they must realise that they have to do it at the right time and that is only after the hundred has been scored and not before What if I had got out at 99? Wouldn't it have been premature? Wouldn't it have been unfair to me and to the rest of the team because my concentration and rhythm was upset because somebody got a little over-enthusiastic? These are the points fans could do well to think about. As I said, I do appreciate their desire to be with their heroes In a Test match, it is just that little bit of lapse of concentration that is the difference between a big score and a low score It looks like it's going to be a draw. There is just one day left for the match to end If our bowlers get a few wickets quickly we will feel we have achieved much more than a draw

5th day



As predicted, the Test match ended in a draw There was no other way the Bangalore Test could have finished A result was out of the question as we also had taken over two days to top their score Perhaps, the only other interest today was whether I would go on and get my double century But that was not to be I offered a return catch to Derek Underwood off a ball which was flighted by him I did not get to the pitch of the ball and I ended up giving him a simple return catch I was disappointed but then credit must be given to Underwood because he bowled well right through the innings and more than anything else, I think he deserved to get a wicket

When England batted I was very keen to see how much response our spinners would get out of the wicket because Underwood in the morning had managed to turn a few Our spinners, in fact, turned the ball more than what Underwood had done There were times when our spinners beat the bat That was the extent to which our spinners were turning the ball

Gooch started off well He batted fluently, particularly when facing the pace bowlers though, of course. Kapil Dev beat him outside the off stump a



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January 1-6 4th Test at Calcutta

ENGLAND IN CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA has nearly always produced exciting Test matches between England and India. Of the six Tests played between England and India at Calcutta India have won twice in 1961-62 and 1972-73, lost once in 1976-77 and the other three Tests have ended in draws

YEAR	TOSS	BRIEF SCORES WITH RESULT
1933-34	England	Drawn (England 403, 7-2; India 247, 237)
1951-52	England	Drawn (England 342, 252-5 decl.; India 344, 103-0)
1961-62	India	India won by 187 runs (England 212, 233; India 360, 252)
1964	India	Drawn (England 287, 145-2; India 241, 300-7 decl.)
1972-73	India	India won by 28 runs (England 174, 163, India 210, 155)
1976-77	India	England won by 10 wkts. (England 321, 16-0; India 155, 181)

HIGHEST TOTALS

For England	403	2nd Test 1933-34	For England	163	2nd Test 1972-73
For India	360	4th Test 1961-62	For India	165	2nd Test 1972-73
					2nd Test 1976-77

LOWEST TOTALS

CENTURIES

FOR ENGLAND (2)

107	M C Cowdrey	3rd Test	1964
103	A W Greig	2nd Test	1976-77

FOR INDIA (2)

129	M L Jaisimha	3rd Test	1964
115	D G Phadkar	3rd Test	1951-52

5 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS OR 10 WICKETS IN A MATCH

FOR ENGLAND

5—24	A W. Greig	2nd Test	1972-73
5—27	R G D Willis	2nd Test	1976-77
6—87	D Allen	4th Test	1961-62
5—73	J Price	3rd Test	1964

FOR INDIA

5—47	S. A Durrani	4th Test	1961-62
5—63	B S Bedi	2nd Test	1972-73
5—65	B S Chandrasekhar	2nd Test	1972 73
5—110	B. S Bedi	2nd Test	1976-77

COMPILED BY VIJAYAN BALA

few times Boycott, as usual, was solid and keen to stay at the wicket as long as possible. Gooch was leg before when Kapil brought one back in and Gooch, who normally does not play too much forward, was in front of the wicket Boycott was joined by Tavare and both of them were content to get their runs in ones and twos, although Tavare was far more aggressive today than his normal self He hit a few quick boundaries off the spinners In trying to turn Shastri to mid wicket he was caught off the outside edge by Sandeep Patil at extra cover.

Boycott got his fifty with two good boundaries, one a cut and the other an off drive He did not look like he was going to get out but in the next over Doshi beat him with a ball to knock back his off stump If Doshi bowls a few more deliveries like this we should be on the winning trail Gower was content to wait for the runs and he and Fletcher played out time before England declared the innings closed so as not to play the last three overs. In situations like this there are no provisions for the game to be called off at the scheduled time in case the mandatory overs are not completed and so Fletcher had to declare the innings closed

All in all, I think it was a game where India had come out on top. Because remember, we had to chase 400, and we were on the field for the better part of two days. Not only did we make that score but also overtook it. So I think morally we were better. Of course, the total England managed in this Test must have given them a lot of confidence. Our batting also needs to be sharper, our batsmen have got themselves started and not gone on to bigger things Sandeep, Kirti and Vengsarkar have all got themselves in and then got out which is not being true to themselves and to the team and so let us hope these people will get going and score more in the Tests to come. I for one am looking forward to Vishy, Sandeep and Kirti clicking because there is no finer spectacle for the crowds to watch. Undoubtedly, Kapil will come down the order and bolster the batting which he has done in the first two Test matches He has taken hold of the tiring attack and torn it to shreds. With Kapil in form, our batting is looking up. It's as I said, the boys were getting a start but then getting out. They have to be a little bit cautious to see that they go and don't waste the opportunities

The reason why I didn't declare was quite simple Because there was no point in trying to evoke an artificial declaration from the Englishmen I don't think Fletcher would have obliged We are one up already and if anybody has got to take the risk it's got to be them in order to win the game. We did not even have a sufficient lead to try and dismiss them and then score the runs And as such there was no question of a declaration.

The reason why I persisted with Shastri and Doshi on the fifth evening even though the match had lost interest was because the ball was turning They were not giving the batsmen the liberties and I thought the wicket of Fletcher or Gower at this stage would give our boys a world of confidence It does not matter how many balls you have faced from the same bowler. A Test match is a Test match and all this talk about exposing our bowlers is rubbish

Pics by
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

DURAND CUP

BSF confirm superiority

THE Durand Cup or rather its full ownership for a whole year, to be more precise, has again eluded Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills, Phagwara. Five times in the last seven years they have figured the Durand Cup final. The only time they did not lose—in 1976—they shared the trophy with Border Security Force In 1974 and 1977 they were beaten by Mohun Bagan, in 1975 and, now in 1981, they went down to Border Security Force. This is the fifth time that BSF have won the Durand Cup outright in addi tion to sharing it with JCT on one occasion.

To start with, the teams were keyed up. But once the early tension was worked off, the fare improved In fact, it looked quite entertaining as the ball swung from end to end. Dari and Bhatia, who in the opening stages gave away a few corners under pressures, did better later in the JCT defence which badly missed Gurcharan Parmar, summoned on national duty at Calcutta. But still Nand Kishore managed to find his way through on a few occasions for dangerous shots in the first half At the other end, Mohinder Gill made most of the JCT raids down the left flank. Once he was unlucky not to score.

All eyes this day were on Harjinder Singh, who is not fully fit. He distinguished himself with a characteristically sophisticated display for JCT. In the second half, after Avoni Gope had got the only goal for BSF following a corner, Harjinder switched over from midfield to take over as a full-fledged striker. Here, too, he shone. Once, when Kultar hit a pass along the ground from the left, he side-stepped cleverly in favour of Parminder. It was a great chance for Parminder to put JCT on level terms. But he failed to control his shot, taken on the run and the ball spun away from the target. Coolness and control is what yields results at such moments. Unfortunately, Parminder lacked this quality.

Comparisons inevitably were made with the final of the DCM Cup tournament in October where the South Koreans University team beat Tricolore from Western Australia. The difference was obvious Our best teams are not as good in tactics and mobility. Individually our players are not as versatile as they should be We are not modern enough in our approach.



SUNIL MALHOTRA

BSF versus PSEB Prabin Subba of BSF (in dark shirt) trying to get past a PSEB defender

ONCE again, the Durand Cup football tournament was badly hit by the absence of leading teams and the withdrawal of others. In the circumstances it was not surprising that all four teams in the semi-finals were Punjab entries—Border Security Force, Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills, Phagwara, Punjab Police and Punjab State Electricity Board. There is some resentment in official quarters when BSF is described as a Punjab team because it is, in fact, a team representing an all-India Service. But as far as the All-India Football Federation is concerned, the BSF entry comes through the Punjab FA. But then these are only technical matters. By making the Durand Cup semi-finals an all-Punjab affair, BSF was only asserting its status as national champion.

When Punjab Police met JCT in the first semi-final, the stadium was largely empty—a disheartening sight to the organisers and quite uninspiring to the teams. There is no denying that Indian football thrives on regional and club loyalties Even at the final the chairs on the southern stands were largely unoccupied—something which has never happened in a Durand final.

The Durand secretary, Wing Commander K.K Ganguly, was a bitterly disappointed man and he made no secret of it He was particularly bitter that the Western India Football Association had not been able to keep to its own schedule, thus disallowing participation of the two Bombay teams, Century Rayons and Orkay Mills This, of course, is not the first time that the WIFA has disrupted a Durand tournament "By not sticking to their dates they harm the national cause", said the Wing Commander. "They would think twice if it were a tournament run by the IFA, because the latter could retaliate. Even Goa hit back by refusing to allow their clubs to take part in the Rovers Cup But tournaments like the Durand and DCM are helpless. They don't control any teams and are in no position to retaliate No possibility of tit for tat"

After their debacle in the DCM Cup in October, the troubled East Bengal Club management must have been in two minds when it came to making up their mind to enter for the Durand. Another debacle here would have caused irreparable damage to their reputation and standing. But the Durand could also have served as a platform for East Bengal to salvage the prestige that was damaged in the DCM The club management were not sure that the team was strong enough to achieve that aim

As for Mohammedan Sporting, after half-a-dozen of their players were called for national duty, there was little left in the team. The Sporting seemed to have exhausted all their resources on acquiring the stars, paying no thought to building up reserves. It is like putting all their eggs in one basket The health of a club depends on its strength in depth, so to speak, not alone on its star players, who are

bound to have more commitments than the others.

But no club loyalties for the Punjabi crowd of Delhi when Punjab teams clash. However, they had more occasions to cheer for JCT in their goalless semi-final against Punjab Police. JCT were the more sprightly lot, striving to play more constructive football. But they were not lucky enough with their shots. Gone are the days when they were called a one-man team because they were so dependent on Inder Singh.

But there was a complete transformation in the replay. JCT pressed into service Harjinder Singh as a midfielder and the man did more than his bit before he withdrew midway through the second half. He not only opened the scoring for JCT but also was responsible for the team's third goal by Parminder. JCT went on to a runaway 5-0 victory. Punjab Police have never gone through such a humiliating experience. True, they were without Balvinder in the attack. Balvinder had been called to Calcutta for the match against the Russians. But so had been Gurcharan Parmar, the stalwart JCT defender. The fact is JCT had greater strength in reserve, without which no team can sustain its success

In the other semi-final, BSF were better than what their 1-0 margin of victory over PSEB indicated. But it must be said to the credit of PSEB that they gave BSF many an anxious moment before finally bowing out. They even had a penalty award in their favour, but the chance was wasted.

PUNJAB State Electricity Board, Hoshiarpur, the new force in Indian soccer lived up to the promise they showed in the DCM cup tournament in Delhi in October They went one better in the Durand Cup when they reached the semi-finals beating holders Mohun Bagan in the play-off on a December afternoon lashed by icy winds blowing down from the fresh snow in the Simla Hills. The play-off had been necessitated because both teams had ended the group one quater-final league with three points from as many matches—one win, one draw and one defeat The PSEB, who had reached the league stage from the qualifying knock-out rounds, had played a one-all draw with the Calcutta team in their first encounter.

There is much to be said about the everything-to-gain-nothing-to-lose attitude of underdogs. That is how PSEB approached their matches against Mohun Bagan, who had a title and a reputation to defend. Put in arrears by a rare reverse-kick goal by Shyam Thapa, PSEB fought on spiritedly, in spite of being outshone by more skilled opponents. Reward came in the second half in the shape of goals by Kashmira and Gurmit. They were scored against the run of play But goals alone count, no matter what the trend of the game.

Veteran Darshan Goga, a tough, diminutive Sikh with a receding hair-



PSEB versus Mohun Bagan. Sital of PSEB clears the ball before Shyam Thapa can get to it

line which makes him look older than his 34 years, forged the openings for the PSEB attack. In the hard-pressed, but unyielding defence, young Sital Singh and the more experienced Ravinder Singh were constant thorns in the Mohun Bagan side. Still, the Calcutta side, who had as many stars in reserve as they had on the pitch, opened up enough chances to win, especially in the second half. But they were badly let down this day by Ulaganathan. The winger gave way to Francis D'Souza with about half an hour still to go D'Souza did improve matters somewhat, but when it came to finishing, even he did not click

The fact is that this has not been a good season at all for the glamorous Calcutta clubs playing in the major tournaments in Delhi. First it was East Bengal, who suffered a debacle in the DCM cup in which they lost all their quarter-final group league matches Mohun Bagan's two defeats in the Durand raised the total number of defeats suffered by the two Calcutta giants to five. One does not remember a more calamitous Delhi visit by these two clubs Mohammedan Sporting, the third big Calcutta club, has not taken part in any Delhi tournament this year

The Mohun Bagan line-up included several Asian Games probables But students of the game were disappointed at the way they performed.

It was an uninspiring sight to see defenders of the stature of Compton Dutta and Subroto Bhattacharya fumbling while tackling and lured out into the wrong positions, leaving yawning gaps to be exploited That was how Goga scored the second goal for PSEB, spotting the gap and putting Gurmit through Goalkeeper Shivaji Banerjee contributed to Mohun Bagan's downfall by hesitating to charge out and mutual recriminations after the damage was useless. It was nothing but a sign of frustration.

The only game Mohun Bagan were to win was against Rajasthan Police (3-1) Here, too, they were not very impressive, one of the goals being gifted by a defender. Then, after sharing two goals and points with PSEB, they were outplayed (1-3) by Punjab Police, whose display was the best till then by any team in the tournament. On a cold, gloomy afternoon, Mohun Bagan looked like a ship without bearings. They failed to get going, in spite of the permutations and combinations they tried

Punjab Police topped the group with four points from two wins, having earlier beaten Rajasthan Police 1-0 in a lack-lustre match. The only defeat they suffered was at the hands of PSEB to whom they lost 0-1, Goga snatching the only goal. The PSEB appeared quite familiar with the tactics of the police and effectively blocked all their likely routes to the goal.

In group two, Border Security were easily the best. Their one hundred per cent record of six points from three games proved their standing. After beating Calcutta's Rajasthan Club (2-1), State Road Transport Corporation, Jammu and Kashmir (4-0) their place in the semi-finals was assured But as though to prove a point they also scored a thumping victory over their nearest group rivals, Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills, Phagwara 3-1. Rajasthan Club and SRTC, Jammu and Kashmir were the two teams in this group who came up via the preliminary knock-out stage But none of them stood the test against better opposition The Jammu and Kashmir team were, in fact, relegated to the role of whipping boys of group two by the 0-2 to Rajasthan, 0-5 to JCT Mills and 0-7 to BSF

A CORRESPONDENT Delhi



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AGE GROUP SWIMMING

The great farce

ONE cannot deny the fact that several swimming potentials have been found from the age group competitions But has really hard work been put in to extract the best possible? No. The purpose for which the age group swimming had been implemented has not been served properly. For this, one can only blame the lethargic attitude of the Swimming Federation of India and its affiliates in general in spelling out the actual age of the swimmers of their respective groups The leniency of the SFI and the tendency of the State associations in concealing the actual age of the participant has made age group aquatics a total farce

One can also say that this type of misappropriation of ages is a not too uncommon feature—and this has got to end soon. Otherwise, whatever talent we have will be nipped in the bud—and so much so for Indian swimming The recent National Age Group Aquatics at Calcutta's Eastern Command pool saw a number of complaints being made but all of them fell on deaf ears except for one case where the organisers accepted the plea because the person making it happened to weild influence. Whenever a complaint arose the organisers referred to the SFI list. If that be the case then what was the point in having a medical board which found all the cases regarding ages to be genuine?

However, the Calcutta meet was the last one of that nature—and better be—as from next year the four groups will be divided into two nationals—sub-junior and junior. But the same doubt arises Will the ages of the participants be genuine? Of course, there is no foolproof method The only way to solve this problem is that both parents and the respective associations should be honest in registering the correct ages But will the associations stick to this honestly? There are a few associations which are more interested in bagging the most medals by fielding over-aged swimmers and trying to prove to the others how good they are There were some cases of malpractice especially on the part of hosts Calcutta, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, and the complaints made by some parents were ignored

The officials of the various associations have a tendency to play the SFI's yes-men As one of them said when a parent pointed out this dirty business "What is the use of making a protest when it will only spoil the goodwill of the federation." This only goes to show that these incumbents are more interested in themselves rather than swimming in general But one has to feel the pinch once. It was understood that an official's child was competing with hulks—and he did not like this. So he made a complaint and it was accepted

The youngsters who toil so hard for this particular competition are psychologically shattered when they see that the boy in the next lane looks much older and taller bearing a slight moustache This was seen in group IV Tears rolled down a boy's eyes before he splashed The lad was only 10 years old while the boy with the moustache seemed to look much older. These instances were most glaring in groups III and IV. Perhaps, another solution to check this is to have an independent medical board

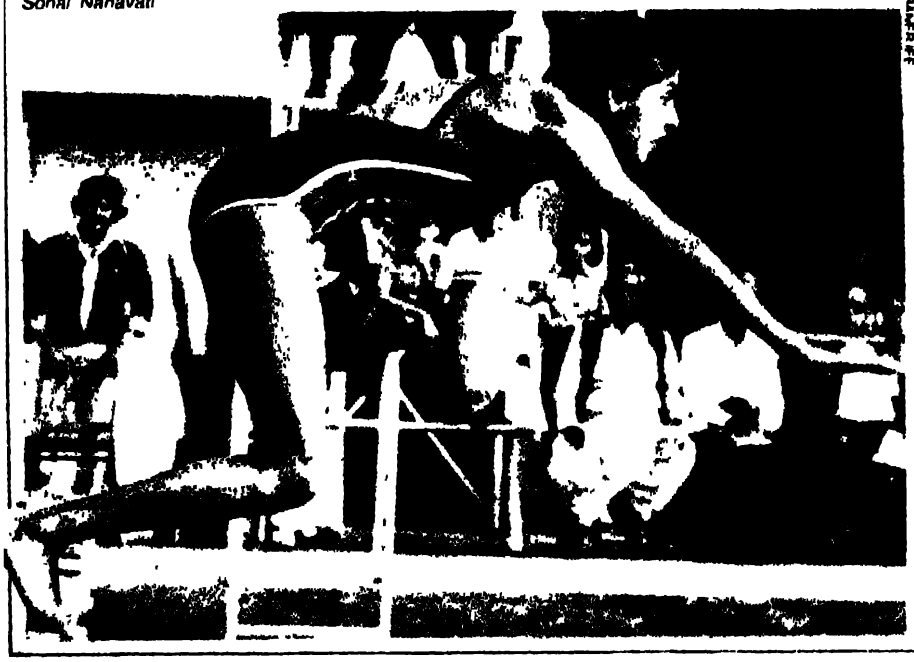
Another anonymous complaint lodged was concerning the nationals being held at such a time (December) when the water temperature in the morning vastly differed from that in the evening The time was most inappropriate and the temperature was most unsuited for competitive swimming The National Swimming Association explained that they had to stage it at this time of the year instead of August because of a court injunction by the Maharashtra Swimming Association Though several records were broken, many swimmers had cramps and some fell sick, but the doctors were very efficient

But performance in general cannot be good in these conditions and those who created new marks like Anita Sood and Persis Madan are accustomed to swimming in the cold water in Bombay And Wilson Cherian was at

Anita Sood in the 100m freestyle



Sonal Nanavati



TARAPADA BANERJEE

A long way to Delhi

It takes years of rigorous training to make a medal prospect. In a [illegible] how we train under the foreign coaches and the expertise involved we cannot produce brilliant results in so little time. But it is consolation we can adopt the finer points and put them into practice. It is fervently believed that the various coaches deputed by the Government of India for the forthcoming Asiad will take the chances in commencing on the programme. Recently, during the National Age Group Aquatics in Calcutta, the German swimming coach from Leipzig Bernd Johnke (42) was present to hunt out the probables.

In reply to India's swimming prospects he said, "At the moment it will be very difficult on my part to make a comment. But from my 13 years of experience as a coach India has a long way to go. Another thing is that you cannot mould one into a champion swimmer in such a short span of time. We have to remember that Japan and China are far ahead."

While questioning him on the comparison between the Indian swimmers and the Europeans, a German lady (not his wife) came out forthwith: "Why can't you judge for yourself. You've got to first give these poor swimmers nutrituous food, a good pool and an atmosphere where parents do not come and interfere. In fact, they should be camped far from the maddening crowd. There should be a bit of schooling and plenty of swimming."



Bernd Johnke drafted a plan programme and handed one to the Swimming Federation of India at Patiala. But one got the impression that the SFI had been showing some disregard towards it. Well, that is how federations react to foreign coaches invited by the Government. Seeing the plan it appeared that the month of September, 1982, would be ideally suited for the Swimming Nationals from which the best pick could have been made for the Asiad, but the SFI has tentatively billed the Nationals for August. The reason the plan suggested was that it would keep the swimmers trim. The federation, too, has been shunning Johnke. He was not even invited at the SFI meeting at Calcutta. "I will have to make do with the existing facilities provided to me for the probables. Apart from the diet and the training, the swimmers must be given international experience. Unless they tour outside this country, it will be very difficult for them to learn their mistakes. And one must not forget that the Asian Games

[illegible] the swimmers can aspire to [illegible] Asian Games, Pacific [illegible] Commonwealth and Asian Championships, to name a few. Ashis is good in the butterfly but has [illegible] this article with [illegible] don't know why he fears the 200m butterfly event, since he has a lot of potential. The Indians lack strength, endurance and the basic requirements for higher performance. That is, the swimmers are good till 50 metres, quite all right till 100 but beyond that starts the chronic problem. All this can be overcome by continuous training. With more training the number of hours can be increased and this will prove beneficial. The general complaint of the swimmers have been aches in the joints after each workout. For this, physical conditioning is imperative.

"Rana Punja is a future potential. He, like many other youngsters, can be groomed rather than the older ones as it is a tremendous job then to rectify the defects in technique. To rectify the wrongs that have been going on for years in a short spell is definitely a Herculean task. But I've come here to try—and honestly endeavour to put them on the starting point with much confidence. The time that will be most satisfying to me will be when they begin to reduce the gap between both, Japan and China. That is for sure. Perhaps, that will be a good foundation for the years to come, provided my plans are realised to the fullest. Lastly, to achieve this standard there should be no breaks, as it does more damage than any good. Continuity must be enforced."

SUBHASH SARCAR

his best in the back stroke because of the experience that he had gathered in the Lucknow Nationals. In fact, he found no stiff opposition. The cold water affected long distance events, and in this case most male swimmers suffered. G. Babu did not find his match in the long distance. As for Anita, she was at her peak in spite of a fever. "My performance was, in fact, better than what I did at Madras, a fortnight back," remarked Anita. "But the water was very dirty, cold and choppy—and this affects performance. The visibility of the black lines was unclear. Then the pool had only seven lanes with no T mark for the turns which reduced the timings. One glaring aspect was that the events were not scheduled properly.

"Having all three swimming, waterpolo and diving in one pool we had very little warming ups. A swimmer needs at least 30 minutes to warm up. And what about the cold? Sufficient time is necessary. That is why so many of them had cramps. The girls' performance on the whole was quite good. Bula Choudhury is a very good swimmer who has the necessary fighting quality. She was the only one who acquitted herself. If she gets proper grooming she is going to go far. Then we have the two Bombay boys who are really good—Ranajoy Punja and Gaurav Kapoor. Sonal Nanavati was the best in group II though Bengal's Runu Das beat her in the 100m fly," concluded Anita.

But what happened on the last day went down in Indian swimming history. In the morning there were fisticuffs and kicking which began from the pool during the waterpolo final between Maharashtra (who won) and the host NSA. All this began due to bad supervision of the referees. The most outrageous thing occurred in the evening when an irate Sonal Nanavati's mother in front of the whole crowd first burst out at the starter and then went and literally slapped the SFI joint-secretary Dilip Mitra. To the swiming fraternity in Calcutta Mr. Mitra is the godfather. The incident was enough to spark off trouble. Mrs Nanavati was immediately surrounded and slightly manhandled. As for Mr. Mitra he took the whole episode very sportingly tried to pacify the crowd via the public system. Thank you, Mr Mitra, for the chivalry you have shown. As for Maharashtra, they have never been in a more embarrassing position. It is understood that the whole incident centred around a "personal grudge".

SUBHASH SARCAR

Interview

Anita strokes to a century

AT the age of only 16, Bombay's Anita Sood is already a swimming sensation. There is nothing that could stop her from breaking record after record in her favourite freestyle events. And in Calcutta, During the National Age Group Aquatics she, in fact, performed far better than in Madras Nationals a fortnight ago, shattering six of her own marks

SPORTSWORLD: What is the secret behind your record-breaking spree?

ANITA SOOD: Dedication and rigorous practice. Every day I practise for three hours without shirking. This is most important.

SW: Who is your coach and how has he helped?

AS: Sandeep Divjikar; he is very good and is ready to help at any time of the day He really is a good coach. My previous coach was Kumar Chattopadhya, a dynamic person who trained me for two years, 1975 and 1976 He placed a great deal of emphasis on hard work and strokes. He is now in Dubai. Sandeep stresses on hard work, a lot of practice and of course correct strokes.

SW: Who influenced you to take up swimming?

AS: My father is in the merchant navy and when he left we got a house very near a swimming club Since I was not working my parents thought it would be better if I took to swimming since the pool was so close by I was just nine and a half at the time, this was October 1974 I had the right sort of encouragement since both my parents are very sports-minded. In the 1975 Junior Nationals at Delhi I won a silver in the 100 metres freestyle, which is my best stroke The most medals I got at a single meet was (counts on her fingers) eight golds and a silver. This was during the recent age group swimming at Trivandrum, where I created eight records Last year during the India-Sri Lanka-Bangladesh triangular meet I won seven golds, creating a new record with each victory, although of course two of them came in relays.

SW: How many medals have you won so far?

AS: (Scratching her head and thinks for a while) I think I have made a century. Call it a swimming ton, perhaps that will be more appropriate. With the last haul at the National Age Group Aquatics in Calcutta, I have 82 golds, 24 silvers and five bronze medals.



SW: You were sent to the United States for a coaching stint. What were your impressions of your visit with regard to the training?

AS: I was coached by Don Talbert at the Nashville Aquatic Club for three months. The training methods there are very systematic and great stress is placed on physical fitness. They have machines for weights which we do not have in India This is a must for our country and we should go about importing them now. We also had to use crutches (the same type used by lame people) in order to strengthen our arms. In addition there were ropes to strengthen arms and legs. Then we had wheelies I don't know how to describe them but they were something like this, a small piece of wood with three wheels. The surface of the wood has a sponge on which we had to rest our ankles and start crawling All these exercises combined to keep us in top physical condition

Then we had to swim long distances in double-quick time This is called quality work and it certainly helped me tremendously. They keep a constant watch on your timings, which also helps you no end. For instance, before I left for the USA my 100 metres freestyle timing was 1:08 5 minutes while today it is 1.05 1 minutes Then in the 800 metres freestyle my timing was 11·15.6 while I was later able to bring it down to 10 23.0 during the India-Sri Lanka meet last year It has deteriorated since then due to lack of better competition and because there is no pacing To give you an example, I was clocking 1:32 0 minutes in the butterfly while now my timing is 1·13.2 minutes But I must say Persis Madan is a better swimmer than I am.

SW: How good are Indian coaches?

AS: They are good but they too have certain drawbacks. For instance, when I went to Patiala in preparation for the Asian championships at Dacca there were three to five coaches and all of them were giving us different types of workouts. We were made to read books and discuss their contents; that was all. They did not even notice how hard we were practising

SW: Who financed your trip abroad?

AS: My father. He saw I had talent.

SW: How much did your State Association help?

AS:(looks surprised) Help? Nothing of the sort. I was supposed to go to Dacca but at the last minute (Field Marshal) Maneckshaw said I could not go since I had not attended the first camp My State association could have followed up the matter but instead they chose to do nothing. They did not give me any help whatsoever and sat tight. I feel that whatever we have achieved has been due to our own expenses and should go to our credit alone, not to our State associations. Take Kerala for example To encourage their swimmers they give a handsome cash award to anyone who breaks a record That is what encouragement is all about By way of contrast, we (in Maharashtra) are not even treated properly. It is only parents who help out. Even the Otters Club where I swim helps me a great deal by giving me a daily allowance and transport They even allow me to swim beyond the stipulated time limit for youngsters.

SW: What suggestions would you make for swimmers who are keen on improving their standards?

AS: One must concentrate on swimming and there should be no diversions whatever. Swimming success is dependent on hard work, constant practice and no shirking at all.

SW: What do you think about swimming in India?

AS: The standard is improving rapidly. Swimmers are going abroad and are returning vastly improved. We should either get a good foreign coach or we should be sent abroad to gain experience This is very essential, especially in view of the fact that the Asian Games are going to be held in our country Here in India it is encouragement which is lacking most.

SW: What are your plans for the future?

AS: Intend to continue and improve further I know it will take a lot out of me before the Asian Games, but then the only ambition is to at least reach the finals after taking into consideration the swimming standard in our country I will be really happy if I can make it to the final stage next year I feel if I do a little more pacing, perhaps I could cross the one minute barrier in the 100m fl A for a medal I can only try and try seriously-because what I hear is a Chinese girl is doing 57 seconds.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOCKEY

A big disappointment

AS a shop-window of Indian hockey, this year's Jawaharlal Nehru Tournament (Nov. 14 to Dec 8) was rather a poor specimen It fell woefully short of the expected standards in more than one aspect, especially in the matter of quality of play Barring the solitary case of the pre-quarter-final between Army Service Corps from Jullundur, who finished runners up to Border Security Corps from Jullundur, who finished runners-up to Border Security Force, and Central Command, who had been given a pride of place straight into the last 16, the fare was pedestrian all through Even the final failed to erase this stamp of mediocrity It was as well indeed that this year we did not have any foreign entry, like the British teams of 1971 and '77, or any of the well-drilled Japanese, Malaysian and West German outfits Otherwise, the prestigious trophy might well have made its first journey overseas

It may be argued that the cream of Indian hockey, comprising the two Indian Hockey Federation teams—the IHF Reds and Blues--weren't there as had orginally been planned But the argument doesn't wash For one, the junior string of the IHF teams didn't shape too well in contests at Kota and Agra immediately preceding the tournament Secondly, and more important perhaps, it is equally essential that a country as vast as ours has something more besides- to use a different jargon, something in the pipeline. From this stand-point this premier competition of the north was a big disappointment

It may also be argued that the line up was not representative enough Yes, the draw featured only one team--DSA, Meerut—from UP, which has produced several outstanding stars in the recent past No team either from Bhopal, another good nursery The south, too was poorly represented, and from the west and the east, we had teams packed with near-veterans and non entities. But in the past, too, the line up used to be more or less similar And yet as the competition would make progress, so also would mount moments of excitement and joy No hockey faithful could complain then that he hadn't had his money's worth

It was so very different this year, and as match after mediocre match was gone through vainly did one hope for some outstanding display of individual brilliance or of teamwork And when it came to the various specialist aspects of the game like penalty corners, corners, "strokes" and free hits close to the ring which, in modern times, can have a tremendous, sometimes even decisive, bearing on the outcome of a match, as it indeed did in the BSF-ASC final, the experience was even less reassuring

The compensations were only of a superficial value--men who did better than the average, or worked harder than the rest. More often than not, these were men who had already made their mark at their level of efficiency. Men like the two Bhengras, both left wingers, one from BSF and the other from ASC. Or a comparative newcomer like Malvinder who manned the Western Railway right wing. One can inflate the list manyfold, but there was little to choose between them and several old timers.

For instance, men like Puran Singh and Shiv Dutt of Western Railway Long past their prime both, they didn't look a pair of has beens in the company of the new recruits in the front-line Nor, for that matter did Vinod Kumar, who must have made his last international appearance a decade ago, suffer in comparison with other men in the rear Even Balbir Singh, who made his last Olympic appearance in 1968, did not look exactly the odd man out as he manned the right wing for Punjab police

As for Ajitpal Singh, our World Cup captain at Kuala Lumpur, his display in the two appearances he made for BSF, in the semi-final against Punjab Police and the final, could be an object-lesson to our younger exponents, if only for his cool and the masterly manner in which he marshalled his team's defensive resources to bring about desired results It is doubtful if Baldev Singh could have produced those two penalty-corner goals which swung the final in BSF's favour. If Ajitpal had not lent his expert touch to the job of stopping the ball dead in good time for the former Olympian to have his try Ajitpal's deceptive free hits near the ring were a treat to watch It is a different matter that BSF

The BSF team with the Nehru trophy





BSF's Kuljeet Singh weaves his way past two ASC defenders

did not have the men to put these openings to account.

One could derive even less solace from team displays The phenomenon is not hard to explain though The solid cohesion that marked the play of outfits like Corps of Signals and North ern Railway is a thing of the past now, their stars of yore having made way for new faces As for Sikh Regimental Centre, also title winners in the past, no one knows whatever has befallen them In fact, looking at the tourna-ment as a whole one could find some thing approaching the days of yore only in the play of ASC and Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills from Phagwara (Punjab), newcomers to the Indian hockey scene

Of the two, JCT are a young lot, bubbling with enthusiasm and enter prise and no mean skill either Baby faced Rajinder has the makings of a good goalkeeper, whereas Abchal and Mohan Singh, who manned the rear, are both hard hitters Jasbir in the halfline is a clever distributor, with trapping skill to match In the attack, Dev Raj on the right, Ram Lal in the middle and Jasbir on the left often claimed attention The boys are in good hands too—that of Bodhi, who coached our team to Kuala Lumpur We are bound to hear more and more about this bunch in the days to come And all of it is going to be laudatory But, sad to say, their very promise cast an evil spell on the competition and all but put it completely out of gear

The first signs of abnormality came almost with the start of the Western Railway BSF match It was the last match in pool B quarter-final league and would decide the pool winners and runners-up BSF were on with two points, from a loss to JCT and a win over EME, Western were a point ahead, from a draw with JCT and a win over EME JCT, however, had finished their three-match programme with three points. A BSF-Western draw would have eliminated them, giving top spot to the railmen and second place to BSF But even as the match started, so also did start a whispering campaign, it was alleged that the match had been fixed

As later events clearly showed, it was a clever plan, and the promptitude with which the organisers took up the matter was somewhat mystifying Warnings were administered to both the teams during the interval, and when the second half produced only two goals, one to each team, the orga nisers presumed the worst They ordered a reply, with the provision that if the teams did not produce a result in regulation time the match would continue till a goal was scored (sudden-death finish) As they call it and that the losing team would meet JCT in another replay to decide the second place in the pool

The whole purpose of this unedify-ing exercise seemed to bring prosperity to JCT And when the umpires also joined the fray, barring the solitary instance of Mohd Obeidullah in inter-national Grade I, it made for a ludic-rous spectacle No hockey lover will ever condone the man or men who masterminded this gimmickry It is acts like these which kill Indian hock ey JCT soon overgrew into a sort of a ghost with a success of dubious merit against Western If the umpires had their way they might have even made it to the final ASC, however, were made of sterner stuff, though it took them all of regulation time Plus 15 minutes of the extension, before they could lay this ghost to rest in the tie breaker

In retrospect, one will remember this tournament not so much for what it failed to produce by way of enjoy-able hockey as for its innumerable umpiring miscarriages One's sym pathies are still with the young, guile less JCT boys It won't surprise one if they shape into a great force in Indian hockey And sooner than many expect But any covert and overt attempts to thrust greatness on them is surely going to do them more harm than good

A CORRESPONDENT

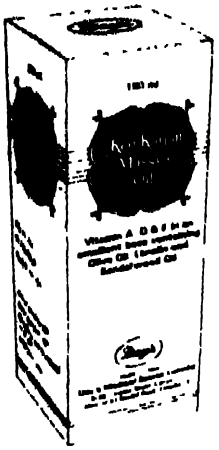
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INDO-CHINA VOLLEYBALL 'TEST'

Disappointing performance by India

WITH only one year to go before the ninth Asian Games at Delhi, the Indian volleyball squad still seems nowhere near the form a team needs to produce to capture one of the first three positions in an international tournament like the Asiad This is the impression the recently concluded volleyball 'test' series between India and China left on the followers of the game in this country India have lost the series 0—5—humiliating indeed

Moreover, though the competition was described as a Test series, it was actually far from so Only an encounter between two national sides can be termed as Test The Chinese team had no national player of the country in it Therefore, it was a series of encounters between the Indian national volleyball squad and a provincial team of China

It was during the fourth Test at Calcutta that these facts came to light Naturally, the officials of the Volleyball Federation grew angry with the journalists and started looking for shoulders to pass the blame on But there was none. They could not even blame the government as they were afraid that it might be suicidal for the federation itself

However, one federation official, who requested me not to publish his name, said, "The government only informed us that the Chinese volleyball team was coming to India It was only after their arrival here that we came to learn that they were not the national squad of China, but only the Sanghai Municipal team" But, even if what he said was true, there were ample opportunities for the federation to announce that the visiting team was not the national side of China What is the reason of their keeping silent even after they came to know what was what?

As expected the Indians were badly beaten by the Chinese in all the departments of the game They simply could not understand the strategy and technique of the touring team

In all, five matches were played at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bhilai, Calcutta and Burdwan I do not think one needed to see all the games to measure the worth of the two teams—the scores were enough In the first three 'tests', India suffered straight set defeats In the fourth and fifth matches they managed to snatch one set each However, these two sets got the blessings of the umpires to some extent.

The total points scored by the Chinese and Indian teams during the series were 252 and 156 respectively Where India managed to win only two sets, the Chinese bagged 18 in the entire series. India was defeated by a humiliating margin of 33 points at Calcutta Here India snatched the fourth set from the Chinese

It was at Bhilai that the Sanghai team defeated India by the lowest margin—48-43. At Calcutta the main reason for India's defeat was that our players could not adjust themselves to the sophisticated playing conditions of the Netaji Indoor Stadium, thereby proving unable to cope with the powerful Chinese onslaught

Moreover, the Indian players were much shorter than their Chinese rivals, who, on the other hand, seemed to have been cut out for the game. They moved much faster than the Indians and never ran out of breath. They were almost flawless in both defence and offence

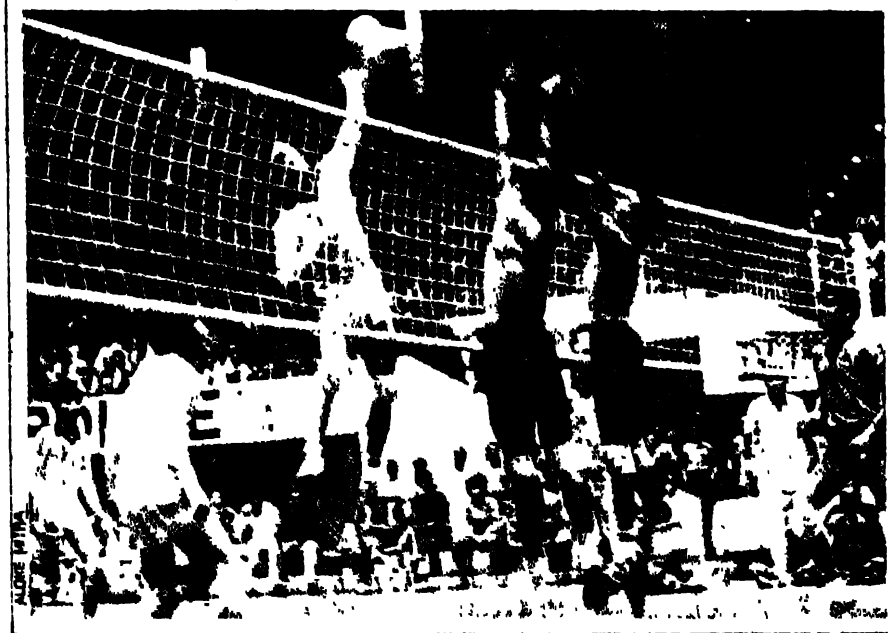
Before the match at Burdwan India's national coach Buchiramaya said, "The Chinese are quite used to the technique of modern volleyball India have lost to a better team Our boys are trying to learn their technique Our team consists of new players (though the average age of India's players is 28, while China's only 22) India's top-ranking volleyballers are now in the Middle-East to seek greener pastures Among them are Balwant Singh, Jimmy George, Jose George, Suresh Mishra, Bosith and Rajjak They have got jobs there On the average each of them earn about Rs 25,000 per month, while in India they could have earned hardly more than Rs 1,000 But most of them are willing to represent their country in the Asiad But if they play for the country only temporarily, it will do the Indian team no good On the contrary, it will result in the deprivation of those who have toiled their way into the team It may also harm the team spirit of the Indian squad If we work hard to give the present team good coaching, it may develop into a very strong squad It was only for 17 days that the Indian boys underwent coaching before the series against the foreigners The more they can learn the Chinese players' technique of quick attack, the better"

The Burdwan match pointed to the fact that the Indian players still could not overcome their main weaknesses They proved too incompetent to face the powerful spikings of the Chinese volleyballers The Indian defence simply wilted under pressure from the Chinese

Though, India's Cyril Veloor and P R Patil showed remarkable improvement of their skill in serving, they could hardly frighten the dauntless Chinese, who repeatedly attacked the Indians with fast combination and powerful smashes

Moreover, China had a greater number of all rounders in the team than India Shen Keom was the skipper of Chinese team in the truest sense of the word His movements on the court could be likened only to those of a snake The grass court of Burdwan was expected to prove of great advantage to the Indians, but they could not cash

India versus China volleyball Test in Calcutta



in on it. Lack of sufficient light in the uncovered court disturbed the players at times. Moreover, the quantity of dust on the floor was surely not ignorable.

But the match was witnessed by a really knowledgeable crowd that totalled nearabout 7,000. They wanted to see the Indian team emerge victorious, but only in vain. The Indian players could not satisfy them. It seemed as if the Indian boys were set against a powerful team all of a sudden

The team underwent training under the East German coach Kurt Radde He too is really in a sorry plight, finding himself quite at a loss to decide what to do with such an ill-planned team. He does not believe that Indian boys attain maturity later than their counterparts in the cold countries. He is a bit annoyed to see that despite being older than the Chinese players, the Indian volleyballers are failing to grasp the technique of modern volleyball Nor is he satisfied with the standard of Indian umpiring. During this series the Chinese players hoodwinked the rules on many occasions by moving fast on the court Had the umpires been a bit more alert, the Indian team would have been greatly benefited

After the Burdwan match the Chinese coach Zhang Windi said, "China never borrowed anything from Europe However, it can be said that the Chinese volleyballers have adopted some Japanese techniques to sharpen their skill. One can find the Japanese strategy of quick attack formation in the Chinese style of play India will improve their performance step by step. The Indians do not play in the run-and-attack style. They can match the Chinese if they make their defence stronger The tour has brought the two nations closer, but we had nothing to learn from the Indians"

TAPAN GHOSH, Calcutta

China win effortlessly

ABOUT 7000 people at the Lal Bahadur Stadium witnessed China crush India 3-0 in the second volleyball test between the two countries There was absolutely no resistance from the Indians and the Chinese too might not have foreseen any threat to their victory What happened to our volleyball team, which had enthralled the crowd at the same venue a year ago against the giants of USSR? India lost, but our boys displayed a beautiful game Losing to a better side is understandable, but being defeated by a second string team is frustrating

Moreover, the organisers and the Press played a mischief to attract the crowd They released advertisements saying that the Asian champions were in the city. But the Chinese skipper, Zhu Yong admitted to *Sportsworld* that his was only a club team (Shangha Club) The official team had not come and "You cannot consider or compare this team with the real champs of China." The main reason for India's failure was the absence of Balwant Singh, Ranbeer Singh, Abdul Basith and Abdul Razak who have left the country to seek greener pastures in the Gulf States. China won three straight sets effortlessly—first set 15-10 just in 19 minutes, the next 15-6 in 16 minutes and the third 15 8 in about the same time The match was over in just 50 minutes Even the coach, Kurt Radde failed to inspire the Indian boys who looked lethargic and sluggish on the court They looked all at sea against the deceptive smashes by the visitors who broke the Indian defence at will Except the towering Liu Huapeng and Sixa Chunhau, who unleashed some thunderbolts, the rest made gaps with mere taps. India looked a disjointed lot in the second and third games.

M S SHANKAR, Hyderabad

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It's a lonely world now

"O BROJODA, please tell us a tale about a tall tail," would not inspire the warm heart any more as he left us leaving behind his numerous friends, admirers to mourn his loss As a gossiper he had few parallels in that field He could carry his friends in the forum of great personalities, great leaders, intellectuals, sportsmen, army chiefs, Prime Ministers and others The yarns he spun were so humorous that he could pitch his friends into the "land of laughter and merriment", and for a while one could forget the miseries of mundane life At last the whistle has blown, calling time, saying, 'no more is Brojo Buli'

Brojoranjan Roy missed the delivery at 76, and the umpire pointed upwards He breathed his last on December 8, survived by his wife, five sons and four daughters



This scribe was acquainted with him for about 30 years He recounts from his memory how once Brojoda told him that in the office a certain Mr X, who had died a few days ago, still visited the office and took his place in the front of the closed library door at midnight and seemed to write something on a piece of paper This rumour spread throughout the office like a bush-fire at that time, and during the night shift all the journalists who happened to be there would avoid the library gate Brojoda continued to narrate how he met Mr X several times "Had you any exchange of words with him"? Brojoda would quip "So many subjects on sporting issues and the ghost also told me that England will be defeated at the Eden Gardens in the Test against India in the year 1972-73" (India vs England 1972-73, December 30 to January 4 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta India won by 28 runs).

Actually, it was me with whom Brojoda had talked! But he could not recognise this scribe on account of the murky light and the covered face with a monkey cap to ward off the cold spell He actually chastened the morale with ridicule Mr Roy had many facets to his career. Originally, he was a nationalist and imprisioned several times between the years 1930 and 1934.

Brojoda, whom we affectionately called, was a pioneer in the sphere of sports journalism. He served *Ananda Bazar Patrika* for about half a century He was admired and loved by all who came in contact with him. Brojoda was an institution in himself As a secretary of the Gymnastic Federation of India for a long period of 13 years he had represented the federation in a goodwill mission to the Soviet Union He possessed a pen facile in reporting and editing He was associated with journalism to the very last day of his life. He could compose a sporting piece by just listening to the transistor and without caring for the teleprinter or with the help of any other news agencies Very often he used to predict the results of big football matches or a cricket Test that seldom betrayed his opinion

As a student in the Asansol Railway School and later in the Bangabasi College, he regularly took part in all sporting and athletic activities and acquitted himself with distinction. Mr Roy was the founder of the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Association He was also a founder-member of the Bengal Olympic Association, Bengal Boxing Association, All India Archery Federation, West Bengal Kabaddi Association, Jatiya Kriya O Shakti Sangha, Kho-kho Association, All India Lathi Samiti, National Rifle Association and above all he was the mastermind behind the gymnastic organisation in the country

He served as the secretary of the Gymnastic Federation of India from 1958 to 1970, being the chief judge in gymnastics in the Madras National Games in 1962 He was also elected the Vice-chairman of National Council of Physical Education, now known as the Council of Sports Once Brojoda commented that since our nation did not know how to smile, ours was a morbid country, and that he wanted to build a nation infusing the life-force through laughter On an other occasion, he lamented describing the condition of the poor health and physique of the country and wanted to introduce "poor" games like gymnastics, Ha do do etc., for the common man He was sincere in his work as well as in words—and there was no doubt about this

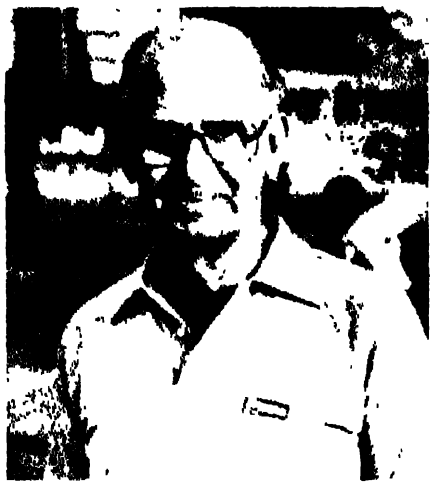
This scribe doesn't know whether our "lip-homage" can reach the super boundary—the happy hunting ground where Brojoda is right now, unless we feel that he is still among us, inspiring to imbibe the ideals which could make a poor nation respectable in the sphere of sport in general and health, the qualities which our country lack and require desperately

He received the *Tamra Patra* as a freedom fighter and was awarded many laurels by his countrymen through many organisations and clubs. He will be remembered for long. His void will never be easily filled in the sphere of sports journalism and as an intimate friend and mentor

Support for sport

HE is in his mid-60s and plays a lot of golf—which he has been doing since a couple of decades. *Ravi L. Kirloskar*, a top business magnate in the country was the captain of the Bangalore Golf Club and now holds the president's chair of the Indian Golf Union His continued involvement with the sport is "to foster it more to the juniors."

"I have played badminton and tennis, but I've never been a champion," muses R. Kirloskar, adding, "But I love watching football and hockey. At the moment, as the IGU president provides golfers with less than 10-12 handicap golf sets duty fee and we are



planning how best we can promote the game further. My love for sport in general can be borne by the fact that we induct a lot of sportsmen in the various industrial units under me Well, we have to look after them during their sporting period as well as the future."

As the president all and sundry feel that Mr Kirloskar's tenure was a lucky one "I was indeed happy to be associated with the 10th Asia Pacific Golf Tournament for the Nomura Cup, played at the Old Course where ten nations participated." But he was happy the way India improved each day of the competition to finish fourth

The hosting of the Asia Pacific was one victory for the industrialist but he was happy when he scored a 'double' He became the first Indian to hold the key post of the president of the Asian Golf Confederation after he was declared unanimously in the Congress during the championships "As the president of the APGC we will have to promote this game." The next biennial Nomura Cup will be staged at Seoul," concluded Mr Kirloskar

CRICQUIZ by Eddie Dunstan

Test star's bad trot lasted three years

He was one of the heaviest scorers of all time with no fewer than 167 centuries to his credit—22 of them in Test matches.

Yet he suffered probably the worst horror stretch of any star batsman when he went for over three years without a Test hundred. Victim of this bad trot ended the England 1932-33 tour of Australia and New Zealand with scores of 227 and 336 not out against New Zealand.

After that his consecutive Test scores read:

1933 v. West Indies 29, 34, 11.
1934 v Australia 25, 16, 2, 4, 37, 20, 15, 43.
1934-35 v. West Indies 43, 29 not out, 1, 9, 47, 1, 11, 34.
1935 v South Africa 26, 29, 27, 63, 87 not out, 65, 29, 63 not out and 65.

He returned to century scoring in his next Test, against India at Manchester in July, 1936 when he got 167.

QUESTION 1

Who was the famous batsman so surprisingly denied a Test century for so long?



A batting sequence of dramatic contrast was that of a prolific Australian rungetter of the 20s.

Counting a score of 102 for the Australians against Western Australia at the end of the 1925-26 season, he made centuries in 11 consecutive matches in Australia. In 1926-27 in six matches he made 214 and 54, 151, 352, 108 and 84, 12 and 116, 131 and 7—1,229 runs, average 122.9; and in 1927-28 he started with 133, 437, 202 and 38 and 336 before finishing with 6 and 2, and 63. That season in Australia he made 1,217 runs at an average of 152.12.

QUESTION 2

Who was the heavy scorer?

Another remarkable sequence of batting successes was begun by an England batsman between the third and fourth Test of the 1946-47 series in Australia when the MCC went to Tasmania.

On January 13, 1947 he scored 124 against a Combined XI in Hobart and followed this up with 163 against Tasmania in Launceston. On to the fourth Test in Adelaide, where he scored a century in each innings—147 and 103 not out.

These scores started a batting spree which carried on to the end of the England 1948-49 tour of South Africa. In this period the batsman enjoying the great trot scored 9,158 runs, including 39 centuries in 140 innings for an average of 78.

QUESTION 3

Who was the rungetter on the rampage?

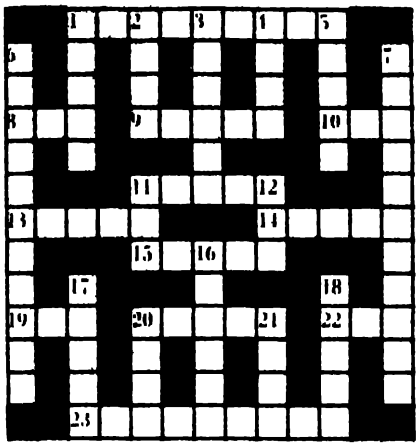
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1. **Alan Knott, who wrote in his book *Stumper's View* "What made the halt easier to bear was that I was morally bowled by the last ball sent down. Mushtaq delivered a beauty and beat me utterly. It passed over the middle stump and even defeated the wicket-keeper, Wasim, as well, so that the last run was a bye. After that the demonstrators vented their fury on the wicket and began digging it up." Knott batted the hours 35 minutes and hit one six and 10 fours.**
2. **Colin Milburn.**
3. **Clive Lloyd, of the West Indies. The Glamorgan namesake who took such heavy punishment was Barry Lloyd, who finished with 1 for 162 from 73 overs.**
4. **Stan McCabe, who took 223 minutes to hammer on the first 200 of his superb 232 in the first Test of the 1938 series against**

Crossword

Gridman

127



ACROSS

1 Game making an unsatisfactory start (9)
8. Muscle problem without Member of Parliament when swimming (3)
9 Cricket's landed proprietor (5)
10 Organisers of the booking contest at Empire Pool (1, 1, 1)
11. Baseball's military operational headquarters (5)
13 Cards end these athletic contests (5)
14 Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor's other middle name to the world (5)
15 Racy Randall (5)
19 Soccer crazy Union Territory returns (3)
20 Is black, but might be on the green (5)
22 Brings runners back to square one (3)
23 Colloquidly warm up for big-matches (4, 5)

DOWN

1. A bit of luck in snooker (5)
2 Lead astray in the card game (4)
3. —international sporting performance is nearly always disappointing (6)
4 A slightly odd Indian basketball trophy (4)
5 India's hockey playing Baboo at Berlin (5)
6 Shakesperean king followed by overdone automobile played hockey for India at the Olympics (7, 4)
7. Merdeka City (5, 6)
11 Initially claims to be India's answer to racing bikes (1, 1, 1)
12 Prasanna's first three names initially go back (1, 1, 1)
16. Russian long distance runner does a little bit of Kung-fu at the start (4, 1, 1)
17. Sounds like I couldn't care less for boxing's first manager, coach and promoter, on the way back (4, 1)
18 Golfers cards (5)
19. Perfect tennis match? (4)
21 Wimbledon '81's Women's singles runners-up's Christian name (4)

(Solutions next week)

Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

QUESTIONS

1 November 4, 1934 is a landmark in the history of Indian cricket Why?
2 Which father and son got a ton each on their respective Ranji debut?
3 Which is the oldest cricket competition in the world?
4 Who is the youngest of India s former famous spin quartet? Who is the oldest?
5 Which Olympic hammer champion s son became the Olympic javelin champion?
6 Who is the first triple jumper to beat 16 m?
7 Which Test record-holder spinner had an arthritic spinning finger?
8 Which Essex reject became one of the world s great batsmen of all time?
9 "No more decathlon, Dad, ever again', protested an Olympic champion to his father at the finish Yet he retained his title in the next Games Identify
10 Which Test cricketer was hanged to death for the murder of his wife?

ANSWERS

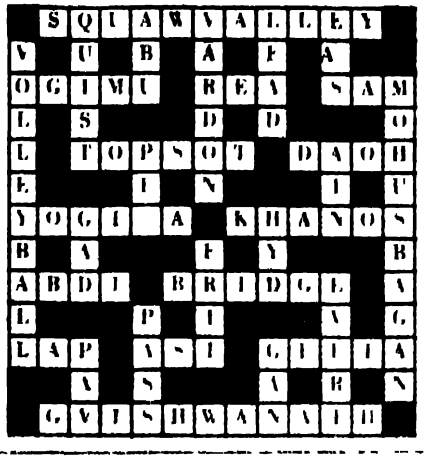
1 The inaugural match of the Ranji Trophy was played on that day
2 Pankaj Roy and Pranab Roy
3 The County Cricket Championship of England
4 Badi (b September 25, 1946) Prasanna (b May 22, 1940)
5 Imre Nemeth, father of Miklos Nemeth
6 Naoto Tajima of Japan
7 Jim Laker
8 (Sir) Jack Hobbs
9 Robert B Mathias (USA)
10 Leslie Hylton (West Indies)

Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Utpal Ghosh, 24-Parganas.
Q. What are the batting and fielding records of Eknath Solkar?
A. 27 Tests, 48 innings, 6 times not out, 1,068 runs 102 highest score, 25 42 average, 1 century, 6 half-centuries, one zero and 53 catches

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 126



J. R. Desai, Bulsar.
Q. If a batsman, in the act of running for a run after his strike, breaks the wicket either by his person or by his bat, at the non-striker s end, is the batsman out?
A. Not out, as the batsman happened to break the wicket accidentally, in the act of running It is only when attempting to play the ball can a striker be given out 'hit wicket'.
A. Fernandes, Bombay; Subir Ghosh, Purulia.
Q What are the 'keeping records of Engineer Kunderan and Kirmani?
A. Engineer has dismissed 66 batsmen by catches and 16 by stumping, Kunderan caught 23 and 7 batsmen behind the stumps and Kirmani's tally of wicket behind the stumps is 118 comprising 92 catches and 26 stumpings
Bhasker Mukherjee, Patna.
Q. Which wicket-keepers have completed the 'double' of 1,000 runs and 100 victims behind the stumps?
A. A P E Knott, T G Evans, J M Parks of England, J H B Waite of South Africa, R W Marsh and W A Oilfield of Australia, D L Murray of West Indies, S M H Kirmani of India and Wasim Bari of Pakistan have completed the wicket-keeper s 'double' in Tests
Shashanka, Arpita Dutta, Chandannagar.
Q What is the address of Sussex County Cricket Club?
A Sussex County Cricket Ground, Eaton Road, Hove (England) BN3 3AN
Amitesh Srivatsava, Ranchi.
Q What are Kapil Dev's and Ghavri's address?
A. You may write to them care therein respective Cricket Associations, such as c/o, Haryana Cricket Association, Chandigarh, for Kapil and for Ghavri c/o, Bombay Cricket Association, Wankhede Stadium, Bombay 400 020
L. R. Chourasia, Nepal
Q. What are Test playing grounds in the world?
A. Birmingham, Leeds, Lord's, Oval, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield in England, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney in Australia, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesberg, Port Elizabeth in South Africa, Bridgetown, Georgetown, Kingston, Port of Spain, Antigua in West Indies, Auckland Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Napier in New Zealand, Bangalore, Bombay Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Madras, Nagpur in India, Bhawalpur, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan Peshwar and Rawalpindi in Pakistan and Dacca in Bangladesh
Pramod Kumar Mundra, Calcutta
Q What is the highest Test total in an innings?
A. 903 for 7 wickets declared by England vs Australia at The Oval in 1938

Arshad Mehmood, Hyderabad
Q What is the Test record of Lance Gibbs?
A 79 Tests 27 115 balls, 8 989 runs, 309 wickets 29 09 average 8 38 best bowling performance
Ashok Sai, Liluah
Q What are Pakistan s highest and lowest scores?
A 657 for 8 decl and 76 are Pakistan s highest and lowest total respectively

Anil Gagneza, Saharanpur.
Q. Who was the first Indian captain who hit a century in each innings of a Test?
A. Sunil Gavaskar

Bobby Khanna, Calcutta.
Q. Why is Australia known as 'Down Under'?
A. Because Australia is geographically situated in the Southern hemisphere, in the down South

S. M. Rafique-ul-Islam, Burdwan.
Q. What are the Test cricket records of W. G. Grace and C. Bannerman?
A. 22 Tests, 36 innings, twice not out, 1,098 runs, 170 highest score, 32.29 average with 2 centuries is Grace's record and C. Bannerman played in 3 Tests to make 239 runs and one century

Samir Chatterjee, Calcutta.
Q. Who was the captain of the Indian team in her first Test?
A. C. K. Nayudu

Kitu, Dilip, Baku, John, Jantara
Q. How many Test tons have been scored by Vivian Richards?
A. 13 in 44 Tests

S. P. Mandal, Keonjhar.
Q. What is the highest score of Glenn Turner?
A. 259 made against West Indies at Georgetown in 1971-72

Pradeep Prabhakar, Gulbarga
Q. What is the Test bowling record of Chandrasekhar?
A. 15,963 balls, 585 maidens, 7,199 runs, 242 wickets, 29.74 average, 58 Tests

M. S. V. Murthy, Bangalore.
Q. How many batsmen have crossed the 6,000-run mark in Tests?
A. Boycott (7,802), Cowdrey (7,624), Hammond (7,249), Hutton (6,971), Barrington (6,806) of England; Bradman (6,996), Harvey (6,149) of Australia, Sobers (8,032), Kanhai (6,227) of West Indies and Gavaskar (6,218) of India

A. P. Naidu, Bhopal.
Q. Whose prize wicket did M. A. K. Pataudi capture? When, where, how?
A. M. C. Cowdrey was lbw to Pataudi in the 5th Test at Kanpur in 1963-64

Atanu Roy Choudhury, Jorhat.
Q. How many ducks has Sir Gary Sobers registered?
A. 12 in 93 Tests

Bridge

Hor Schapiro

I am not a great one for reviewing books, but when a new one by Hugh Kelsey appears, I cannot resist. His latest *The Mind of the Expert* (Faber & Faber, £6.25) kept me alert from cover to cover. The only trouble is that the title describes the book only too well and as a result it will be only the top echelon of players who will benefit from *all* of it. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of useful material for the improving player. Browsing through the book, I became intrigued by the following deal with – I thought – a rather original theme. For would-be readers, relax, I missed the winning play completely, (even with a sight of all four hands.)

	♠ Q 4 ♡ 10 8 5 2 ◇ 9 7 3 2 ♣ A 7 4	
♠ A 8 7 6 2 ♡ A K 7 3 ◇ J 5 ♣ 9 3	N W E S	♠ none ♡ Q J 9 6 ◇ Q 10 8 6 4 ♣ J 10 8 5
	♠ K J 10 9 5 3 ♡ 4 ◇ A K ♣ K Q 6 2	

South dealt at game all and this was the bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	pass	1 NT	pass
4 ♠	double	pass	pass
pass			

The defence starts with two top hearts and you ruff with ♠ 3. How do you plan the play? Apparently there are only three losers – a spade, a heart and possible club. But there is only one explanation for West's double – he holds all five outstanding trumps. To play trumps will lead to immediate defeat when West wins and forces with another heart. Suppose that West's distribution is 5-4-2-2, is there now any hope? Will it help to cash the diamonds and follow with three top clubs? No good! West will ruff and continue with Ace and another trump, leaving you with a losing club.

Somehow you must arrange matters so that you have a *winning* club left if West draws dummy's trumps. The only play that succeeds, as the cards lie, is to cash two top diamonds, play the King of clubs and a club to the Ace, ruff a heart in hand and exit with a *low* club. Now you are all right. If West ruffs and plays Ace and another spade, you have a winning club. If East wins, you can ruff your (winning) club on the table and score your trumps at leisure.

Note the importance of ruffing a heart when you are in with ♣ A. If you don't make sure of scoring a trick with the five of spades at this stage you will never do so.

Last week's quiz: I had an inquiry about the legality of a player using only his hand record card for bidding and not looking at his cards. Legal, possibly, but extremely foolish. After all, the laws don't insist on you looking at your cards before you bid, but I find it a great help.

Some years ago a well-known player tried the record card trick at a Midlands congress. Possibly delighted by an earlier result, he absent-mindedly retained his card for the next deal. There was a curious auction, Blackwood showing that the partnership held six Aces between them. Puzzled, they settled for 6 NT, but when the cards appeared it seemed that they had reached the slam with only about twenty-nine points. The opponents laughed so much that they misdefended, and the crazy slam made. Now the opponents staged a formal complaint to the Tournament Director. It would have been simpler to have looked at the thirteen cards!

This week's quiz: with plenty of entries to both hands, how would you tackle a suit of K 10 8 7 4 3 facing A 2 in a no-trump contract to give yourself the best chance of five tricks?

Chess

Peter Clarke

Yes, it is well worth the long wait. That is my verdict on Volume 1 (1485-1866) of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess Games*, edited by David Levy and Kevin O'Connell. Oxford University Press must be congratulated on overcoming the many problems that have threatened this enterprise since it was first announced over four years ago. The price of £35 will shock most chessplayers, but the more you look into it the more you will realise that you are getting a bargain. Volume 1 contains, in figurine algebraic notation, about 4000 games, including – according to the dust cover – all the recorded games from 1485 to 1800, all the known games played in every significant tournament and match between 1800 and 1866, every traceable game of the greatest players of the era (Philidor, La Bourdonnais, MacDonnell, Staunton, Anderssen and Morphy) and all the early games of Steinitz, there are also analyses by leading players of the day, illustrations of players and events and the most comprehensive set of indexes ever prepared for a chess book (85 pages in all). Here, for starters, are a couple of very old games. We begin with the first one in the book, the sole example attributed to the fifteenth century.

White: **Castellvi**; Black: **Vinoles.** (147?)

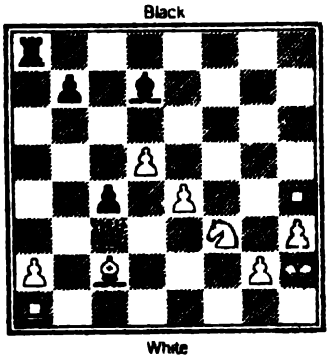
1 P – K4, P – Q4;	2 P x P, Q x P
3 Kt – QB3, Q – Q1,	4 B – Q4, Kt – KB3
5 Kt – B3, B – KR5;	6 P – KR3, B x Kt
7 Q x B, P – K3;	8 Q x P, QR – Q2;
9 Kt – KR5, R – B1;	10 Kt x RP, Kt – K1
11 Kt x R, Kt x Kt;	12 P – Q4, Kt – Q3
13 B – QR6ch, Kt x B;	14 Q x Kt ch, K – Q2
15 P – Q5, P x P;	16 B – K3, B – Q3
17 R – Q1, Q – B3;	18 B x P, Q – K3
19 B – B4, B x B,	20 Q x Kt ch, K – B1
21 Q – Q8 mate.	

The second shows that even three hundred years ago attack did not always triumph over defence. White: **Lutes Palma**; Black: **Manhisses.** (Paris, 1680.)

1 P – K4, P – K4;	2 P – KB4, P x P
3 Kt – KB3, P – KN4;	4 B – B4, P – KR5
5 O – O, P x Kt.	6 Q x P, Q – B3
7 P – B3, Kt – B3,	8 P – Q4, Kt x P
9 Q – Q3, Kt – K3,	10 Kt – Q2, B – Q3 ch
11 Kt – B3, Kt – K2,	12 B – Q2, P – KR3
13 QR – K1, B – K4,	14 B x Kt, BP x B,
15 Kt x B, Q x Kt;	16 B x P, Q – KR2
17 B x P, R – KR1;	18 Q – R3, B – K3
19 R – B3, Q – B4,	20 QR – K3, Q – QB4
21 B – R3, B – K7;	22 B – B2, B x R
23 R x B, Q – B3,	24 R – Q3, Q – B5
25 Q – B5 ch, Kt – R3,	26 B – K3, Q x KP
27 Q – QR5, Kt – K4;	28 Resigns

Competition 8488 Solution next week.

Black



White

Solution to 8487 (Evans – Larsen, Dallas, 1957) (3r2k1/5pp1/4P7/3q2p/4n3/3B4/PP3rPP/3R2K1 – Black to play.) The Danish grandmaster settled the issue with a Rook sacrifice. 27 ... R – B8ch! 28 R x R (or 28 K x R, Q – KB4 ch, 29 K – Kt1, Q – B4 ch, 30 K – R1, Kt – B7 ch etc.), Q – QB4 ch, and White resigned (if 29 K – R1, then 29 ... Kt – B7 ch forces mate).

Problem No 1183. Solution next week.
M. Hannemann (First Prize, *Dagbladet*, 1957) (8/8/1p5/1RBK4/6k1/8/4P3/8 – 5 white men; 2 black).
White to play and mate in two moves.

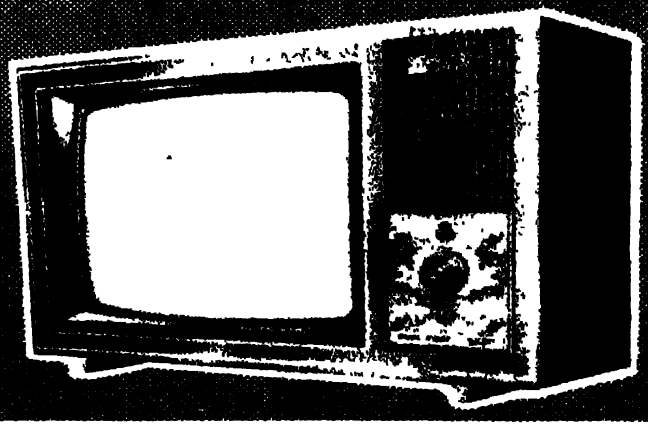
Solution to No 1182 (Temp). (5Rb2/2p5/K1p1BN1q/pp1qp3/3b4/8/R1Q1PPp1/1B4k – mate in two.) 1 Q x P (threat 2 Q x R) (a) 1 ... R – Q1, 2 Q – B4. (b) 1 ... R – Q3, 2 R – R4. (c) 1 ... R – B4, 2 Q – K4. (d) 1 ... Kt – K8, 2 P – B4. (e) 1 ... Kt – K6, 2 R – Q2. (f) 1 ... Kt – B5; 2 P – B3.

When the willow-wielding Englishmen arrive . . .





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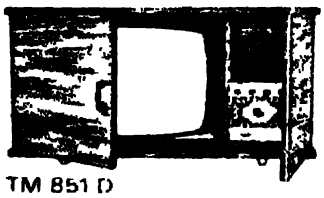
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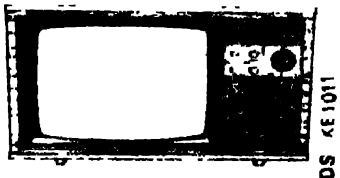
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